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Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi Arabia, Syria To Buy Chinese Missiles

NC1805182989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1608 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Paris, 18 May (MENA)—The French newspaper LA TRIBUNE [as received] reported today that Saudi Arabia and Syria have signed a three-way agreement with the PRC to purchase surface-to-surface M9 missiles and Chinese long-range [as received] CSS-2 ballistic missiles, which have a range of 2,700 km. These missiles are described as "self-guiding," that is, they carry equipment that enables them to adjust their course by themselves.

The French newspaper, which specializes in economic affairs, adds that Saudi Arabia will finance the entire deal. The paper notes that Riyadh had previously supplied itself with Chinese-made CSS-2's, something which angered the United States at the time, according to the paper.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Calls on UN To Protect West Bank, Gaza

NC1805115589 Paris AFP in English 0948 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Tunis, May 18 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation urged the United Nations Thursday [18 May] to take measures to protect residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip against "Israeli terrorism" a senior PLO official said.

Bassam Abu Sharif, advisor to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, also called on the United States to adopt a "clear position on the Israeli crimes". The U.N. Security Council must take "practical measures to protect the residents of the West Bank and Gaza against Israeli terrorism," said Mr Abu Sharif.

The 15-member Security Council met Tuesday in New York to discuss a text on the situation in the occupied territories, where according to an unofficial toll 437 Palestinian have been killed by Israeli gunfire since December 1987. But the U.N. body failed to agree on the text and the meeting was postponed.

Turning to the latest bloodshed in the occupied territories, Mr Abu Sharif said that the "criminal military escalation proved that the government of (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Shamir is an obstacle to peace." And he warned that Israeli action in the territories would only "reinforce the determination of the population of the West Bank and Gaza to resist until the end of occupation."

Shamir Plan 'Diametrically' Opposes 'Uprising'

JN1905090689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1846 GMT 18 May 89

[Commentary: "Reading of the Political Situation": "They, We, Proposed Initiatives, and (words indistinct)]

[Text] Brothers. Israel opposes any move toward, or contact with, the Palestinians and the right of Palestinians, as people, to self-determination. Israel opposes any settlement or compromise, and any just, courageous, and humanitarian peace intitiative such as that which the Palestinians have been proposing loudly from every rostrum, with the support of the world community.

Israel is only trying to perpetuate its occupation, entrench its settlements, and consolidate its expansion. It is intensifying and deepening the genocidal war, which it has been waging since its establishment, against every Palestinian right and independence.

This is the Israel that says it wants to continue the peace process, end the state of war with the Arab countries, find a solution for the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, restore peace with Jordan, and resolve the problem of camp residents in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza (?as implicitly stated) by the political initiative released by Shamir a few days ago.

But Israel is not surprising anyone with this plan, which enjoys the support of the two main Israeli parties—the Likud and the Alignment. This, then, is the enemy's position, and our position is diametrically opposed to it. The Shamir government's plan only underlines the difference between the two positions. The position of the intifadah [uprising] is necessarily opposed to that of its enemy. The struggle between the two positions is open and continuing, and the stronger side is the one that can keep to its stand and consequently, push the other party and then force it to change its position or yield. This is the logic of power governing the struggle between the intifadah and its enemy, which seeks to eradicate the Palestinian people. If a compromise were to emerge, it could stem only from a firm, strong, and defendable position and from the power to use constantly-developing weapons to defend it.

There can be no compromise or settlement with the Zionist enemy, except by bringing it to its knees and forcing it to accept the requirements of a compromise and the legal principle of a settlement in the land of Palestine. A compromise cannot be reached through the false and distorted mirrors that the Israeli enemy presents every now and then, and through which it sees its ugly face and detestable settlement.

We are the ones who make the settlement and peace; it is our blessed intifadah, and the wisdom of our historic leadership's political initiative—the wisdom that opened the doors of all world capitals. The world will inevitably force the disturbed expansionist Israeli enemy to change

its nature so that peace is possible. This is what we make. The enemy, on the other hand, is too weak even to think of peace. It will not join this peace process until its back is broken, and this is what we have been doing for 25 years, the age of our contemporary Palestinian revolution, and for 18 months, the age of our blessed Palestinian intifadah. They are the losers. Only the enemies are the losers. Victory is definitely coming.

PFLP's Habash Rejects Shamir's Election Plan
JN1805162789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has stated that the PFLP rejects Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories. He said: The Israeli leaders' calculations are wrong; we will not capitulate but will bury this plan. He added that the Palestinian people seek freedom and independence.

It will be recalled that the PLO Executive Committee had earlier rejected Yitzhaq Shamir's plan.

PNSF Spokesman on Casablanca, Damascus Talks
LD1805195289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1745 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 18 (KUNA)—The Damascus-based Palestinian National Salvation Front, PNSF, will address a memorandum to the Arab kings and heads of state on the occasion of their emergency summit in Casablanca next Tuesday.

A spokesman of the PNSF said in a statement here today the memorandum would carry the front's position towards current developments relevant to the Palestinian cause, Palestinian struggle and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He disclosed that the PNSF, comprising the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party, the Fatah-dissident group led by Colonel Sa'id 'Abu Musa, held a meeting in Damascus today.

The meeting, he added, reviewed latest developments on Palestinian, Arab and international arenas, especially the convocation of the emergency Arab summit and its expected implications on the Palestinian cause.

Three Palestinian groups had earlier quitted the PNSF, including the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine led by Dr. George Habash, the Palestinian Liberation Front and the Popular Struggle Front.

Radio Calls For 'Return to Armed Struggle'
JN1705201389 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arabic Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 May 89

["Political Touch" commentary: "Three Questions"]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee, which met in Tunis for 2 successive days, has done well by terming terrorist Shamir's initiative a joke and an obvious political maneuver. In order that this approval takes a real form, a number of questions should be posed in the hope that discussing them would be practical and useful.

The first question: Is this rejection, which came after much labor, fatigue, and deliberation, a rejection of the principle of the liquidationist plan or a rejection stressing a certain maneuver?

The second question: What are the considerations and reasons that prompted this rejection and do these reasons apply only to Shamir's initiative?

The third question: What is the alternative reached by the Executive Committee and does this alternative also apply only to the said initiative?

Only the answers to these questions can put approval of the Executive Committee's decision in the right perspective.

In reply to the first question, we say: Rejection of the Zionist initiative was a rejection of the initiative itself, in isolation, and not a rejection of the principle of the settlement plan. The conferees in the Tunisian capital discussed the terrorist Shamir's initiative as if it were completely isolated from its origin. Its origin is the acceptance of the solution proposed by the U.S. Administration and adopted by the Zionist government, and there is no harm if we say this the other way around. As this is what had happened, the rejection expressed was a partial one. In the best case, it had no political or principled value so long as adherence to the root and stem of the settlement plan is its basis.

It seems that the Executive Committee's rejection of Shamir's plan is mainly a multifaceted political maneuver. We can here use the same phrase with which the conferees termed Shamir's initiative a joke, and place it after the word rejection. Thus, their rejection begins to resemble the same joke and the same maneuver. It seems to us that this maneuver has many political facets. The most prominent of these, perhaps, is the thick black band placed over the eyes in order to conceal what is happening between this committee's supporters in the territories and the U.S. delegation under Ross; and between them and the so-called Zionist war minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who said after a long meeting with them that the general atmosphere toward the peace plan launched by terrorist Shamir was positive.

Political observers do not find it hard to interpret the rejection of Shamir's plan by those who met in Tunis as an attempt to prompt the PLO elements in the territories to move and agree to elections, and then implement all the administrative and political measures as cited in the Zionist proposal. The fait accompli will then be achieved. Embarrassment and disgrace will then be removed and matters will run as planned.

In reply to the second question on the reasons for the rejection and whether these reasons apply only to Shamir's initiative, we can easily say that the Tunis rejection is not based on fundamental principles. Had it been, there would have been no Algiers resolutions, no acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338, no Paris declaration on the abrogation of the Palestine National Charter, nor many other political acts. As an evident and natural conclusion of this reality, it is certain to us that the so-called rejection is meant only to throw dust in the eyes, especially as a summit is expected to be held, and the PLO leadership wants to have even a small margin within which it can move in the circle of the general settlement plan.

Answering the third question on the alternative reached by the Executive Committee, we find that there is no alternative that differs from, contradicts, or conflicts with Shamir's initiative. The alternative they propose is part of the general settlement plan or part of the American-Zionist scheme. This part does not at all conflict with the Zionist initiative, but tries to dance with it in the same place, in the same room, and in the same court.

Moreover, had there been a real alternative to Shamir's proposal, a bold national and pan-Arab decision that blows up all the political trends of the PLO's leadership would have been taken many years ago. This real alternative is based on a return to armed struggle and unified Palestinian action, abandoning the attempt to outflank the great and blessed intifadah [uprising], and returning to a clear and firm pan-Arab position. This, with great bitterness, was not one of the reasons behind the rejection of terrorist Shamir's initiative.

Our opinion about the rejection of the Zionist initiative is neither utopian nor unilateral. It is the one which makes us consider approval of the Executive Committee's decision a weak approval that might not be in place, but voiced only as a way of sprinkling orange-blossom water over the body of the deceased.

God is with us and victory is near. Together along the path of liberating land and man.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Laos

BK1605102389 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Vientiane, May 16 (OANA-KPL)—The Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] and the State of Palestine, as of May 15 have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, according to Laos-Palestine joint communique signed here on May 15.

The Lao-Palestinian joint communique was signed by Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy-minister of foreign affairs of the Lao PDR and Shahir 'Abdallah, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the State of Palestine.

The communique indicated that the decision was taken with a view to develop the friendly relations and to promote cooperation between their respective countries and peoples.

Algeria

'Text' of Communique on Chadian President's Visit

PM1905095289 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 16 May 89 pp 2, 3

[APS report: "Mutual Confidence and Joint Desire To Promote Bilateral Relations"]

[Text] Following the visit which President Hissein Habre has just made to Algeria, a joint Algerian-Chadian communique was issued. The text is as follows:

At the invitation of His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, His Excellency Hissein Habre, president of the Republic of Chad, head of state, founder and chairman of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR], accompanied by a large delegation, made an official visit to Algeria 13-15 May 1989.

The two heads of state had private talks which were then expanded to include the members of the two delegations.

The talks were attended, on the Algerian side by: Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh; Larbi Belkheir, the president's private secretary; Information and Culture Minister Mohamed Ali Ammar; Light Industry Minister Taher Bouzghoub; Boualem Dellouci, Central Committee executive secretary for international relations; the director of the Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Algeria's ambassador to Chad.

On the Chadian side the talks were attended by: Foreign Minister Acheikh ibn Omar; Transportation and Civil Aviation Minister Djibril Negue Djogo; Information and Civic Orientation Minister Adoum Moussa Seif; Bichara Idriss Haggar, second executive secretary and permanent secretary of the UNIR Central Committee; Ahmed Moussa-Mi, the president's private secretary; Ramdane Barma, technical adviser to the president for international relations; Michel Froud, director general of the Foreign Ministry; the director general for cooperation at the Cooperation Ministry; and Chad's ambassador to Algeria.

During their talks which took place in a fraternal and cordial atmosphere, the two sides had a fruitful and detailed exchange of views on the state of their bilateral relations and on African and international questions of common interest.

They welcomed the spirit which characterizes their bilateral relations which are based on mutual trust and the mutual political desire to promote them further to meet the expectations of the Algerian and Chadian peoples in the spirit of solidarity, fraternity, and cooperation which unites them.

Attachment to the OAU's Principles and Objectives

In this context, they welcomed the results of the second session of the Algerian-Chadian joint commission which was held in Ndjamena from 6 to 8 October and which made it possible to identify many areas of cooperation, in particular transportation, information, energy, health care, Saharan agriculture, technical assistance, and trade. The two sides pledged to make every effort to implement the actions decided.

Examining the international situation, the two sides paid special attention to the problems facing the African Continent.

They reaffirmed the importance they attach to the OAU's principles and objectives, and reaffirmed their support for its action to promote a peaceful settlement to intra-African disputes and the completion of the continent's liberation.

The two sides welcomed the positive development in intra-Maghreb relations with the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] which is an important landmark on the path toward African unity to which the continent's peoples aspire.

They expressed their conviction that this task of integration and cooperation will certainly have positive effects on the other countries in the region.

Joint Action for Consolidating Relations of Solidarity and Cooperation

They agreed to strengthen their joint action with a view to consolidating relations of solidarity and cooperation among the Maghreb and Sahel countries.

Turning to the situation in the West Sahara, the two sides welcomed the efforts made by the current OAU chairman, the UN secretary general, and the OAU secretary general aimed at enabling the Saharan people to freely exercise their right to self-determination in the framework of the settlement drawn up by OAU Resolution 104 and UN Resolution 40.50 [number as published].

After examining developments in the conflict between Chad and Libya, the two sides welcomed the positive atmosphere which prevails in their relations and which was reflected by the holding of Chadian-Libyan meetings in Tripoli and Ndjamena, thus implementing a common desire to achieve a rapid and final peaceful settlement to their territorial dispute.

With regard to the development of the situation in southern Africa, the two sides welcomed the establishment of the process leading Namibia to independence but expressed their concern about the Pretoria regime's machinations which are aimed at hindering effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435.

To this end they appealed to the international community to guarantee the Namibian people freedom to exercise their right to real independence.

They reaffirmed their firm support for the Namibian people in this crucial phase of their existence and for the South-West African People's Organization, their legitimate representative.

Discussing the situation in South Africa, the two sides once again expressed to the South African people their unswerving solidarity and reaffirmed their support for the African National Congress, their legitimate representative, in its struggle to eradicate the odious apartheid system, and for the frontline countries in their struggle to safeguard their national independence, the two sides condemned the savage and blind repression perpetrated by the minority, racist, fascist Pretoria regime against the South African and Namibian peoples and called on the international community to implement comprehensive and compulsory sanctions against South Africa.

Support for the Palestinian State

Examining the situation in the Middle East, the two sides reaffirmed their support for the Palestinian State, the proclamation of which is an important stage in the Palestinian people's long and heroic struggle to recover their legitimate and inalienable national rights under the leadership of the PLO, their sole representative.

They expressed their support for the intifadah [uprising], which is the authentic expression of the Palestinian people's unshakable desire to be liberated from the Zionist occupation.

They appealed to the international community in general and to the permanent members of the UN Security Council in particular to put an end to the daily genocide of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories.

The two sides stressed the urgent need to convene an international Middle East peace conference under UN auspices with the PLO's full participation.

After expressing their great concern over developments in the Lebanese situation, the two delegations appealed to all sides in the conflict to respect the cease-fire decided by the Arab League and expressed their support for the efforts of the good offices committee in pursuing its mission to achieve intra-Lebanese agreement and to safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Foreign Debt: Appeal for Consultations Between Debtor, Creditor Countries

With regard to the conflict between Iraq and Iran, the two sides called on the two countries to carry through the peace process and thus achieve a comprehensive and final settlement to their dispute in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Reviewing the difficult economic situation which the African Continent is experiencing as a result of the accumulated effects of the international economic crisis and natural disasters, the two sides welcomed the African countries' determination to take responsibility for their own social and economic future and are convinced that united and sustained action by the international community is vital to give the African countries favorable conditions for their social and economic development.

With regard to the African debt, the two sides called for consultations between creditor and debtor countries in the framework of an international conference to find solutions which take account of the problems experienced by the African countries and thus enable them to continue their development efforts already affected by an unfavorable environment and international situation.

After exchanging analyses of Arab-African cooperation, the two sides reaffirmed their conviction that it is necessary to consolidate joint efforts and actions aimed at strengthening the traditional ties of friendship, fraternity, and cooperation which have always united the fraternal Arab and African countries.

The two sides welcomed their broadly identical views and analyses on the different subjects discussed and reaffirmed their political will to give new impetus to their bilateral relations.

His Excellency Hissein Habre, president of the Republic of Chad, head of state, UNIR founder chairman, expressed warm thanks on behalf of the delegation accompanying him and on his own behalf to His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, and to the Algerian people and government for the warm welcome and hospitality shown to them during their visit to Algeria.

His Excellency Hissein Habre, president of the Republic of Chad, head of state, and UNIR founder chairman, invited His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, to make a visit to Chad.

That invitation was accepted with pleasure, and the date will be fixed later.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Cited on Ties With Syria, Meeting

NC1805210789 Muscat ONA in Arabic 1945 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (ONA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egyptian-Syrian relations have improved. He said that Syria's positive reaction to the invitation extended to Egypt to attend the extraordinary Arab summit in Morocco has had a good effect.

In a statement to ONA, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid remarked that a restoration of relations between Egypt and Syria may be possible, noting that a meeting between the Syrian and Egyptian presidents in Casablanca should not be ruled out. He recalled that the two presidents had met previously during the Islamic Conference Organization's summit meeting in Kuwait. The Egyptian foreign minister stated that everything is possible in view of Syria's positive reaction and Mubarak's welcome of Syria's position, as well as in view of the forthcoming presence of the two presidents in Casablanca, and their personal relationship and comradeship as colleagues-in-arms.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid welcomed the call that is being made for Egypt reclaim its membership in the Arab League. He noted that President Mubarak's policy and its achievements in the Arab and international arenas have been appreciated. He added that Egypt will resume its activity in the Arab League after the Arab summit. The Egyptian foreign minister pointed out that the return of Egypt's delegate to the League will be determined at the appropriate time.

With regard to the Palestinian issue, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid remarked that the current Palestinian moves are meeting with international support. He referred to the realism and sobriety that characterize the PLO's leadership.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed regret at the assassination of Lebanese Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid and said that it is time to put an end to the Lebanese tragedy and to the bloodshed there.

His excellency said Egypt supports the Arab six-man committee on Lebanon, which is chaired by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah.

Reconciliation Efforts With Syria 'Successful'
JN1805094889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 May 89 pp 1, 2

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources yesterday asserted that Saudi Arabian-Jordanian-Soviet efforts to reconcile Egypt and Syria have achieved great success. The two countries have informed King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and King Husayn of Jordan of their mutual desire to restore diplomatic relations between Cairo and Damascus in order to achieve Arab solidarity.

Damascus has also informed the Soviet authorities of its readiness to achieve rapprochement with Egypt. During his recent tour of the region, USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze sought to convince Presidents Husi Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad of the need to achieve Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement during the next phase. Moscow has also expressed its readiness to host an Egyptian-Syrian meeting on any level.

The diplomatic sources explained that a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and President Husni Mubarak will be held on the fringes of the extraordinary Arab summit with the attendance of some Arab leaders. It is expected that, following the meeting, restoration of full diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria will be announced.

Recently, Egypt rejected Syria's attempts to convince it to retreat from its rigid stand toward Syrian intervention in Lebanon in return for supporting Egypt in all Arab forums. A diplomatic source in Cairo confirmed that Syria made its offer through one of the states which are mediating to bring the viewpoints of Cairo and Damascus closer and restore full diplomatic relations between them.

Egypt expressed its readiness to achieve rapprochement with Syria without any preconditions. It also asserted its firm position rejecting any foreign intervention in Lebanon as the basis to solving the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Egyptian-Bahraini Joint Communique
NC1805150489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 18 May 89

["Text" of joint communique on the 16-18 May visit to Egypt by Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah issued in Cairo on 18 May]

[Text] Expressing their solid and deep-rooted relations and their strong fraternal ties; acting within the framework of efforts to close the Arab ranks and support the joint Arab march toward solidarity and cooperation; demonstrating the serious and purposeful willpower in both the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Bahrain; and responding to an invitation by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, paid an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt 11-13 Shawwal, 1409 of Hijrah, corresponding to 16-18 May 1989.

During his visit to Egypt, his highness the Bahraini amir was accorded a warm welcome which was an honest expression of the integrity of the ancient ties that link the two fraternal countries and their people, and of the sublime feelings of love and appreciation harbored by the Egyptian president, government, and people for sister Bahrain, its amir, government, and people.

In an atmosphere of pure fraternity, full understanding, and keenness to boost Arab cooperation in general, and to consolidate the close cooperation between the two countries in particular, the two Arab leaders held talks

which were marked by a spirit of mutual trust and which witnessed an identity of views in the topics discussed. Several senior officials from both sides participated in the talks.

The Egyptian side praised the efforts being played by sister Bahrain, under the leadership of his highness, to consolidate Arab solidarity and to defend the Arab and Islamic just cause. The Egyptian side lauded the prudent policies being pursued by Bahrain in tackling those issues.

The Bahraini delegation said that the resumption by Egypt of its leading role and Egypt's return to its natural place in the heart of joint Arab work, in pan-Arab institutions, and in the Arab emergency summit meeting in Casablanca, are developments which will strengthen Arab unity and will consolidate the march of solidarity, which is indispensable for the achievement of higher Arab interests.

The Egyptian and Bahraini sides voiced their support for the intifadah [uprising] of the sons of the struggling Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The intifadah, the two sides said, is evidence of the Palestinian people's determination to regain their legitimate national rights. The two sides also expressed support for the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions in Algiers and for the establishment in November 1988 of the independent Palestinian State.

The two sides declared that the positive developments which have taken place in the Palestinian position constitute a precious opportunity which all parties should utilize to achieve a peaceful, just, and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict. The two sides also noted the sympathy and support of the international community with regard to the establishment of the Palestinian State.

The two sides emphasized that an international peace conference convened under UN auspices and held with the participation of the five permanent Security Council members and all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO on an equal footing, represents a formula acceptable to the international community for achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The two sides denounced Israel's inhumane practices and disregard of the aspirations and legitimate rights of the struggling Palestinian people.

Egypt and Bahrain reviewed developments in Lebanon. In this regard, they welcomed the results of the Arab foreign ministers' recent meetings in Tunis and their support for the efforts being made by the Arab good offices committee for Lebanon. The two sides called on all parties to abide by the cease-fire to avoid further bloodshed in the fraternal country and to pave the way for working out a comprehensive final solution to the Lebanese crisis.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction over the cessation of hostilities in the Iraq-Iran war and expressed the hope that the two sides will attain a just, peaceful, and lasting settlement through negotiations so that security and stability may be restored in the two countries and in the region, and so that Iraq and Iran will be able to marshal their efforts toward development and reconstruction.

The Bahraini and Egyptian sides stressed their support for the UN secretary general's efforts, which aim to implement fully UN Security Council Resolution 598.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak reiterated Egypt's keenness to preserve the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf because it is part of Arab national security. He also stressed Egypt's support for the fraternal State of Bahrain in consolidating its national security.

The two sides reviewed the recent developments in the Arab arena represented in the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, which, together with the Gulf Cooperation Council, constitute steps toward marshalling the energies in line with the Arab League charter and in fulfillment of its sublime objectives.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, expressed his pleasure at his luck to visit the soil of Egypt in the wake of the completion of the liberation of the Egyptian national soil. He conveyed his warm congratulations to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the government and noble people of Egypt for Egypt's exercise of its sovereignty over the area of Tabah.

The two sides noted that the evacuation of foreign troops from Afghanistan represents a prelude toward achieving a final solution to the existing problem in a fraternal, nonaligned Muslim state. They expressed the hope that the Afghan mujahadin's struggle will culminate in the achievement of their legitimate objectives and in the safeguarding of Afghanistan's independence and national unity far from foreign intervention.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction that the Afghan mujahidin now occupy Afghanistan's seat at the Islamic Conference Organization. With regard to international relations, the two countries noted their deep satisfaction over the detente currently prevailing in international relations and expressed the hope that this would lead to the elimination of all hotspots and to the resolution of all regional problems, and boost international peace and stability.

The two sides voiced support for all the efforts being exerted to overcome the problems facing the international community, foremost of which concern drought, desertification, environmental pollution, and other issues. Regarding bilateral relations, the two sides noted with extreme satisfaction the positive developments and

the steady progress in the various fields of cooperation between the two countries. During the talks the two sides reviewed in detail all aspects of bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, investment, culture, information, labor, youth, and other important fields.

An agreement for legal and judicial cooperation between the two countries was signed. The two sides agreed to take the necessary measures to promote and expand all fields of cooperation in the best interests of the two sisterly countries and peoples. They underlined their eagerness to continue the exchanges between them at the various levels in order to bolster bilateral ties.

His highness the amir of Bahrain stressed that it was a source of happiness and pride for him to visit Egypt, see the signs of progress throughout the country, and witness the ongoing efforts to accelerate the process of development and reconstruction in it. He expressed his thanks and gratitude for the warm reception he was accorded as well as for the genuine, amicable feelings shown toward him, which demonstrated the nobility of Egypt and which reflected the ties of religion, blood, language, fraternity, and common history governing the two countries.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, invited President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to visit the State of Bahrain. His excellency the president accepted it and promised to respond to it as soon as possible.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Ends Official Visit

Meets With Prime Minister Sidqi

NC1505210989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi and the delegation accompanying him to Cairo in his office this evening. The discussion during the meeting dealt with financial and economic cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs; Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy; and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Kandari, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo.

Investment Agreement Signed

NC1505212789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2017 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—An agreement on the protection of investments between Egypt and Kuwait was signed at the Economy Ministry today. The agreement aims at developing and promoting investments between the two countries and increasing and protecting capital investments in both countries.

The agreement was signed for Egypt by Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa and for Kuwait by Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi, who arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 2-day visit.

The agreement provides for the nonnationalization and nonexpropriation of capital investments and projects of one state in the other. It also provides for reciprocal benefits, as well as for freedom to transfer profits from projects outside the country in which the capital investment is made.

The agreement is effective beginning today.

KUNA Details Agreement

LD1605190889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1602 GMT 16 May 89

[By Ibrahim al-Fadhli]

[Text] Cairo, May 16 (KUNA)—A new accord to boost two-way investment between Egypt and Kuwait is designed to open new avenues to investors and entrepreneurs from both sides while providing the additional bonus of tax exemption and a host of other incentives.

A well-placed source told KUNA Tuesday the agreement, signed by Kuwaiti and Egyptian finance ministers here Monday, would make it possible for investors to transfer profit, revenues and dividends without any impediments.

Investments, under the 10-year accord, would be immune to nationalization or confiscation, unless such a measure would have to be applied for the better interest of one of the two countries, the source said.

In such a case, the investor—an institution or individual—would be fairly and promptly compensated in an international currency at the highest rate offered at the time, according to the source.

The agreement, which replaces one signed 23 years ago, was the highlight of a visit to Cairo by Kuwait's Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi who arrived here Sunday and is expected to leave tonight.

Al-Kharafi said after the signing ceremony Tuesday the accord is hoped to be a great incentive to Kuwaiti individual and government investments.

The Kuwaiti minister, however, pointed out that Kuwaiti investments in Egypt, be they deposits or in the form of project funding, had already been sizeable, standing at about three billion dollars.

Yet he hoped the trend would be further strengthened and noted that the accord reflected the growing cooperation between the two countries in more areas than one.

The Egyptian finance minister, Yusri Mustafa, was hopeful the agreement would expand the volume of Kuwaiti investment in his country, saying Cairo had adopted a number of measures to make this possible.

Al-Kharafi Cited on Talks

LD1505170289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1510 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Cairo, May 15 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Finance Minister Muhammad Jasim al-Kharafi Monday conveyed to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak a message from H.H. the amir.

Al-Kharafi told reporters, after meeting the president, that he also conveyed greetings of Kuwait's amir, government and people.

The minister said that he will carry back home President Mubarak's constant keenness to follow up Gulf developments in particular.

Al-Kharafi told KUNA that his meeting with Mubarak was an opportunity to discuss developing bilateral economic and cultural ties and means of boosting joint investment activities.

He pointed to the president's interest in bolstering such ties and to his directives in this respect and added that the briefed [as received] the head of state on the agreement to be signed between the two countries later tonight on protection and encouragement of investment.

Mubarak affirmed importance of enhancing fruitful and constructive cooperation between the two countries, Al-Kharafi elaborated.

Asked on his meeting earlier today with deputy premier and minister of planning and international cooperation Kamal al-Janzuri, Al-Kharafi said that a review of joint economic activity was made.

They exchanged views on past ventures and means of benefiting from the positive elements and avoiding the negatives ones, surfacing during execution.

The minister said that he raised the issue of Kuwaiti owners of real estate in Egypt so that they could end the problem of registering their property.

He lauded Kuwaiti-Egyptian economic relations and affirmed that Kuwait was among the major pioneer countries investing in Egypt, based on its convicton of feasibility of such investments and importance of cooperation with Egypt in view of its weight in the Arab world.

Al-Kharafi said that discussions also dealt with the establishment of permanent economic and investment projects and added that the Kuwait fund for Arab economic development was prepared to study any ventures proposed by Cairo.

He noted that the proposals will be studied and programmed according to the [word indistinct] available potentials but did not say whether Egypt had tabled any new loan requests.

Al-Kharafi said that the fund recently signed two loan agreements with Egypt that were not utilized yet.

Departs Cairo 16 May

NC1605171389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1642 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi left Cairo this evening after a 2-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Al-Kharafi held talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, on ways of promoting economic and financial cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait. Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd saw him off at the airport.

Oman's Qabus Arrives on Official Visit 18 May

NC1805102189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, arrived in Cairo from Amman this afternoon on an official 3-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak.

President Mubarak led the officials receiving Sultan Qabus at Cairo International Airport.

British Chief of Staff Arrives in Cairo 18 May

NC1805103989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—Britain's Chief of Staff Sir David Craig arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit. During his visit to Egypt, he will confer with General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, minister of defense and war production, and Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, the Egyptian Armed Forces chief of staff.

Sir Craig was received at the airport by Major General Faruq Abd al-'Azim, commander of the central sector, and a number of senior Armed Forces officers.

Received by Defense Minister

NC1805222089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2018 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, minister of defense and war production, has received British Chief of Staff Marshal Sir David Craig who arrived in Cairo this morning.

A session of military talks was held between Egypt and Britain today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, and Marshal Sir David Craig.

It has been learned that the talks dealt with promoting military cooperation between both countries.

The British chief of staff visited paratroop units and was received by Brigadier General 'Abd al-Mu'in Hasan Ahmad, commander of the paratroop units. The British official inspected the paratroop academy and a paratroop combat training unit. During this visit, he observed modern training methods.

Marshal Sir David Craig also visited the cemeteries of the commonwealth states in Heliopolis.

The British chief of staff is due to inspect the British contingent operating within the multinational force and observers in al-Jawrah [placename as received] in Sinai.

Departs Cairo 19 May

NC1905092189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—British Chief of Staff Marshall Sir David Craig left Cairo this morning after one day in Cairo when he met with General Yusuf Abu Talib, minister of defense and war production.

The British chief of staff was seen off at the airport by Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Editorial Decries Shamir's Election Terms

JN1805182089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 May 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The Ultimate Evil"]

[Text] Shamir's recent statement to an Israeli newspaper that he wants to reassure himself beforehand that whoever emerges as the winners of his proposed elections on the West Bank and Gaza will not embrace the establishment of a Palestinian state marks the latest Israeli game on elections. Toward that end, he wants to work out a deal with the candidates that whoever wins the elections will not renege and go on to set up a Palestinian government or anything of the kind!

So Shamir wants a written document or oral undertaking from the candidates in advance of the polling whereby they undertake not to confound his plans! He wants to secure from them a promise that they will disenfranchise themselves as a prerequisite for their participation in elections that are supposed to give them their political rights!

This may prove to be the most bizarre demand ever in any elections in history. Shamir wants the elections held under occupation and in a climate of repression; he opposes the polls being overseen by neutral or UN observers; he will hear nothing of any PLO involvement in the elections. On top of that, the Israeli prime minister would like those most immediately concerned to undertake that anyone even remotely connected with the cause will not be elected!

In other words, Shamir would like to turn the runup to the elections, the elections themselves, and their results into a total farce! What he really wants is one of two things: either for the elections to spawn people to his personal taste, or for the elections to meet with a blanket boycott, in which case he would have done his bit and cleared his conscience in the eyes of the world! He would have gone the whole way and called "democratic" elections, which the Palestinians turned down because they have failed to appreciate the offer and therefore do not deserve it! And so let occupation continue until such time as the Palestinians measure up to the elections!

There can only be one reason for this wretched floundering; namely, that Shamir, who is denying the Palestinians the right to self-determination, fears that whatever elections he holds will amount to a true plebiscite on self-determination. Some of his coalition partners have sought to dilute the offensiveness of his proposal for the parody of elections under repressive circumstances by saying that Israel will accept the outcome of the elections even if they are won by PLO supporters. Shamir, however, is adamant that the elections must be held in his ironclad fashion.

Editorial Terms Shamir's Elections 'Theatrical'

JN1805142389 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 May 89 p 5

[Editorial: "The Truth Behind Shamir's Elections Theatrical"]

[Text] It has become clear that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir still insists on playing his comedy, which he calls the Israeli plan for peace, and which includes an offer to conduct elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to elect 10 Palestinians with the objective of holding deceptive talks with them to reach results that will achieve Shamir's concept for the future of the occupied Palestinian territories. This concept is far from the objectives for which the Palestinian people are struggling. The most important of these objectives are the termination of military occupation of their territories and their right to establish their free, independent state.

We do not believe that Shamir is unaware that there is not one Palestinian who will agree to participate in elections under the auspices of tyrannical occupation forces that are using the most hideous methods of brutal coercion against citizens in the occupied territories and in the absence of a true international supervision that guarantees the Palestinians' right to vote freely. This is in

addition to the Israeli prime minister's having defined in advance the objective of the talks he offers to hold with elected Palestinian representatives.

This objective is to agree on 3 years of limited autonomy rule in a way that the inhabitants of the occupied territories will continue to be under the full control of Israel. This is without even abiding by any future settlement or a promise to withdraw from the occupied territories after a limited period of time.

Anyone who is aware of the basics of the Israeli policy, its twisted methods, and suspect objectives can realize that the theatrical elections composed by Shamir are aimed at aborting all the successful Palestinian achievements in the international arena, which has become fully prepared to stand resolutely on the side of the Palestinian people and their leader Yasir 'Arafat to liberate their occupied homeland and establish their independent state. This proves that Israel's attempts to gain time to find a way out of this impasse will not succeed.

Cabinet Reshuffle Possible 'Within Weeks'

JN1805165589 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 15 May 89 p 1

[Text] AL-AHRAR has learned that a cabinet reshuffle, retaining Dr 'Atif Sidqi as prime minister, will be announced within weeks. The cabinet reshuffle will involve the merger of a number of current ministries and the cancellation of others. Moreover, a new system for the government's representation in the People's Assembly and Consultative Council will be adopted. In the reshuffle, the number of deputy prime ministers will be reduced, and the tenure of ministers will be fixed and specified.

The political leadership is studying a memorandum drawn up by the Presidency Advisory Commission on the merger of a number of ministries and the cancellation of others. The ministry mergers will be as follows:

—The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Scientific Research will be merged into a Ministry of Education.

—The Ministry of Social Insurance and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Manpower and Training will be merged into a new ministry to be named "The Ministry of Manpower."

—The Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, the Ministry of International Cooperation, and the Ministry of Planning will be merged into one ministry to be named "The Ministry of Financial Resources."

—The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Information will be merged into a ministry to be called the "Ministry of Information."

The memorandum prepared by the advisory commission also calls for:

—Placing the Ministry of Administrative Development, the Ministry of Local Government, and the Al-Azhar Affairs under the supervision of the prime minister.

—Retaining the current status of a number of ministries headed by the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Foreign Ministry, and the Ministry of Defense.

—Reducing to two the number of deputy prime ministers.

—The memorandum also calls for canceling the posts of the ministers [as published] of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs and replacing them with under secretaries for parliamentary affairs at each ministry. Moreover, the memorandum calls for ruling out the reassignment of ministers who have served in their ministries for more than 7 years.

Official 'Source' on Petroleum Ministry's Policy

NC1905091989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—A responsible source in the Ministry of Petroleum has stated that the ministry has not issued any official or press statements on increasing its oil production or exports. He said that the oil sector's plan does not aim to increase production or export of crude oil despite the operation of new wells. These wells resulted from intensified oil exploration, in which foreign companies are taking part.

The source said that chemist 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has warned during the past 5 years of reduced oil reserves while stressing the need for constantly reducing production and exports in order to stop depleting oil wells. The petroleum minister has also called for focusing efforts on rationalizing local consumption of petroleum products, which is now estimated at around 500,000 barrels a day, equivalent to half our oil production of 900,000 barrels daily. He has also called for expanding production and consumption of natural gas in factories, electric power plants, and houses to substitute for liquid petroleum products.

The source added that Egypt has moved toward reducing its oil production to contribute to the collective efforts of the oil producing countries. He also said that that more than once, Egypt has been forced to halt its oil exports during the time of sharp deterioration of world oil prices.

The source noted that during the current 5-year plan, the state's public budget incorporates gradually reducing dependence on oil income and exports as a principal source of foreign currency because of the instability and fluctuations in world prices. This was taken in light of the Petroleum Ministry's studies and forecasts.

The source added that the oil sector is providing products whose value exceeds $4 billion at world prices for local consumption.

Assembly Slated To Discuss Agricultural Accord

JN1705182989 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 26 Apr 89 pp 1, 4

[By 'Umar Ahmad 'Umar]

[Text] The People's Assembly will discuss at its next sessions following the blessed 'Id al-Fitr holidays a loan agreement concluded between the government and the United States on the sale of agricultural commodities. In that agreement, the United States sets the condition that Egypt must continue to increase the prices of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers and must also work to reduce subsidies on and increase prices of fodder—something which would affect the cost and prices of agricultural products and meat.

In that agreement, the United States also sets the condition that the Egyptian Government must encourage the importation and marketing of corn, veal, and imported agricultural produce by the private sector and also that Egypt must "continue to support the activities pertaining to population control and education in rural areas".

The agreement also stipulates that the Egyptian Government must secure access by the U.S. mission in Cairo to statistics and data showing changes in the economic and social policies being pursued.

The agreement was signed on the Egyptian side by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister; Dr Yusri Mustafa, economy minister; Dr Jalal Abu al-Dhahab, supply minister; and Dr Maurice Makramallah, international cooperation minister. As for the U.S. side, it was signed by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner. It is well-known that the initialling of this agreement was followed by Mubarak's Washington visit and also by an agreement to establish a joint U.S.-Egyptian committee to monitor the performance of the projects funded by U.S. loans and follow up the general economic situation in Egypt.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Saudi Envoy Discuss Arab Summit

LD1805193689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, 18 May (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received Shaykh 'Ali Musallam, the envoy of King Fahd, king of Saudi Arabia.

JANA has learned that it was confirmed at this meeting that Saudi Arabia was surprised by the call to hold an emergency Arab summit because of the absence of any urgent issue requiring the holding of a summit or a meeting, and because there is no agenda for this summit.

Sudan

Islamic Front Calls Prime Minister 'Passive'

NC1805164789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1553 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 18 May (MENA)—The National Islamic Front [NIF] has accused the Sudanese Government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] led by John Garang of not being serious about the search for peace and of not taking positive stands for this purpose.

The Front has also accused the Sudanese prime minister of being passive.

In an interview with Sudanese newspaper AL-AYYAM today, Hafiz al-Shaykh al-Zaki, NIF Political Bureau member, said it is treacherous to call for peace when Garang's movement still occupies several southern cities.

He said that the Front will not be involved in the peace process unless all the cities occupied by the SPLM are liberated, the war is ended, and a joint session is held between both parties to discuss the various issues and prepare for the constitutional conference. He added that the government had been negligent about the country's security and borders.

Former President Interviewed on Current Problems

PM1905084389 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 15 May 89 pp 19-21

[Interview with former President Ja'far Numayri by Abu Bakr al-Siddiq al-Sharif in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sharif] What is your opinion of what is happening now in Sudan?

[Numayri] What is happening now in Sudan is a natural product of the rule of sectarianism and of the democracy slogan in which the parties of destruction are cloaking themselves. Through destruction, ruin, coercion, and fear, partisanship is aimed at controlling the country. As a result, they have inflicted 4 years of humiliation, backwardness, hardship, and insecurity on the country because of alack of planning, as well as the spread of corruption and nepotism, which has become characteristic of Sudan.

The policies of confusion and party agentry have historically proved their inability to carry out the tasks of development, building, and transformation. They have proved to be the crucial and inevitable factors in deepening the problem of identity and legitimacy, mainly through their misguided orientations and selfish ambitions, which have become simply a means of fragmenting unity and destroying national cohesion.

Party and sectarian contradictions have frustrated economic, social, and political development issues and isolated them from the national struggle line. And as a result of the misuse of the international community's aid to Sudan, the world lost its confidence in party governments and thus ceased dealing with and giving aid to it. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] It is said that the years of your rule are behind the difficult problems like resolving the problem of the south and the September laws—that is, if we ignore the economic crisis.

[Numayri] The problem of the south? I think you mean the present problem, because the May revolution resolved a problem which the parties themselves had caused in the south earlier. As for the present problem, it was not difficult in the May revolution days. It was a matter of simple skirmishes, which we could call plunder. It did not reach the present scale. Nevertheless, we made efforts to resolve it because of our conviction that war can never be a means of resolving problems. And had it not been for the April chaos, our efforts would have resulted in a just solution to the problem of the south.

The present difficulty over the problem of the south comes from the party leaders' insistence on internationalizing it. Deviationist party leaders call for peace from outside Sudan, whereas others call for war, to the extent that they used a neighboring state's aircraft—with their crews—to attack our citizens in Sudan.

[Al-Sharif] With your long absence from power and long experience in leadership, what, in your view, are the causes of instability in Sudan, and how do you believe they can be contained?

[Numayri] As I said earlier, the reason for all that is happening in Sudan, including the instability, is sectarianism and its symbols which are ruling and leading the Sudanese people through a reactionary method which goes back to the Dark Ages. That is the cause of the disease. And that disaster can only be overcome first, by eliminating the causes of the disease and second, transferring power to its proper owners: "The alliance of the working people forces," who are seriously and sincerely eager to rescue the homeland from the chasm into which sectarian partisanship has led it.

[Al-Sharif] There has been a power crisis in Sudan for several months now as a result of the Al-Mirghani-Garang agreement. How would you assess that agreement, and do you believe it will be able to achieve peace between the north and the south?

[Numayri] I personally lean totally toward resolving Sudan's problems via negotiation rather than war, provided that that is based on two main pillars: first, negotiation among the Sudanese themselves, that is, without interference from any foreign quarters—because the Sudanese are capable of resolving their problems by themselves. And I want to send a warning about the line pursued by sectarianism, which is trying to internationalize the problem of the south, as a result of disease and ignorance—something which has alarmed me. Second, the solution must be just and comprehensive. No party should make gains at others' expense. Gains must be for the homeland as a whole. If what Al-Mirghani and Garang have decided corresponds to what I have mentioned, then I have no doubt it will achieve peace in Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Undoubtedly, you follow Sudanese events moment by moment. On that basis, how do you assess the fraternal and friendly states' aid to Sudan since the fall of the May revolution?

[Numayri] The aid provided by the fraternal and friendly states to Sudan is not provided for the sake of the regime in Sudan, but rather to strengthen their relations with the Sudanese people. During the May revolution era, the fraternal and friendly states provided all the help the Sudanese people needed. Since May, these states have helped the Sudanese people during all the predicaments and disasters they have experienced.

You may ask now: So why have some states recently refrained from providing aid to Sudan? The answer is clear and frank: These states sensed betrayal on the part of officials in Sudan, as they keep a considerable part of that aid for their own personal benefit, and the Sudanese people know that very well. Even the arms supplied to Sudan by some states, have been directed to arming party militias instead of the Armed Forces. This is why many states have refrained from providing aid and others have shown reservations. It is ridiculous that the arms trade should become a source of financial corruption for the Sudanese sectarian parties. [passage omitted]

Military Criticizes Media Handling of Army News

EA1805152489 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 18 May—The Armed Forces official spokesman issued here yesterday a statement on the way some local newspapers [are] dealing with the Armed Forces news.

The statement called the newspapers which relied on their private sources or the radio of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] in dealing with Armed Forces news, to report the publication of such news with the Armed [Forces] making sure of its reliability, would have negative effects on the coherence of the internal front and the (?morale) of the troops fighting at the operations zone. [sentence as received]

The statement recalled the meeting of the ex-defence minister with the chief editors of the newspapers, in which they agreed to the Armed Forces' official spokesman. [sentence as received] The statement has also pointed to the decree issued by the Council of Ministers,

which banned publishing and casting of any information on news concerning the Armed Forces except those issued by the official Armed Forces or government spokesmen. [sentence as received]

Stern legal measures would be taken against the newspapers which would not comply with the order, the statement warned.

Tunisia

Tunisian-Libyan Follow-Up Committee Meets

LD1805232189 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 18 May 89

[Excerpts] Tunis, Al-Ma' [May] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The joint supreme follow-up committee between Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia (?started) yesterday its session in the Office of the Cabinet in Qasbah. Present at this meeting were Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and the premier of Tunisia, Mr. Hedi Baccouche. [passage omitted]

Staff Major Jallud delivered a speech at the opening meeting of the Committee [words indistinct] promotion of the union of relations between Great al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia stressing that what is witnessed in these relations on the road of unity between the two sisterly countries could not have happened before the 7th November pointing out that what is taking place on the road of the unionist action between Great al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia is a [passage indistinct].

Staff Major Jallud has reaffirmed that the will of the Arab people in Tunisia has triumphed thanks to the historic change of the 7th November brought about by President Ben Ali and all the free people in Tunisia.

Staff Major Jallud has stressed that what we are doing now is a historic action. It demands that the participants in this action who embody it be aware of the importance of this great action. He notes that any group of people who want to succeed in their work should have 3 conditions available: They are their understanding [of] their mission, their capability to do this action and their faith in it.

He has stressed that the heads of the sector committees should understand that there is a unionist project between Great al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia which is fixed by a timetable based on a unity from the foundation the aim being to have the interest connected and integrated to make unity as the result. [passage indistinct]

Meanwhile, the Tunisian Premier Hedi Baccouche gave a speech welcoming on his behalf and on behalf of President Ben Ali and the Tunisian Arab people Staff Major Jallud and his accompanying delegation.

He says that these meetings and [words indistinct] points out that the meetings conducted at all levels between Great al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia to implement what was agreed upon. He points out that the meeting of the supreme follow-up committee in Tunis with the heads of the sector committees in various economic and social spheres are for unifying what can be unified among all the sectors achieving integration among themselves.

He has stressed the necessity of (?being) prepared for establishing the unity between the two sisterly countries and the implementation of the plans and programmes to reach unity.

Kuwait

Coast Guard Boat, 8 Aboard 'Still Missing'

JN1805151889 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 17 May 89 p 4

[Text] A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has stated that the Coast Guard boat, which was reported by some newspapers to have been found, is still missing and intensive efforts and contacts are being made to find it.

The source indicated that the boat was lost with three crewmen and five others on board while it was on a routine patrol mission on 9 May.

Boat Reportedly in Iran

NC1905134689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1244 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, 19 May (MENA)—The Kuwaiti AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper reports that the Kuwaiti Coast Guard boat which was declared missing several days ago is now in one of the Iranian ports. The paper adds that the six Kuwaitis who were aboard the boat are being held by the Iranian authorities.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Scheduled To Visit U.S. 27 Jul

LD1805203389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Jeddah, 18 May (SPA)—The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud has accepted the invitation he received from His Excellency U.S. President George Bush to visit the United States of America.

This was announced in a statement issued today by the Royal Court. The text of the statement follows:

Statement from the Royal Court:

In consolidation of the role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the efforts being made to achieve peace in the Middle East;

In affirmation of the close historical relations existing between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America;

And for the renewal of the personal friendship between the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and His Excellency President George Bush, the custodian of the two holy mosques accepts the invitation he received from His Excellency President Bush to visit the United States on 27 July 1989.

King Reportedly Invites Al-Qadhdahfi To Summit

LD1905140989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1327 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Riyadh, 19 May (SPA)—To clarify a Libyan radio item broadcast at dawn today, citing JANA, that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was surprised by the call to convene an emergency Arab summit conference because there was no issue that required such a summit, a responsible source has told SPA:

The mission of the envoy of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, was confirmed to convey orally his wish that His Excellency President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi attend the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca in order to contribute to discussions on issues concerning the Arab nation and to achieve Arab solidarity. The message also mentioned the strengthening of fraternal ties between the two brotherly countries.

King Receives Former Lebanese Prime Minister

LD1805201789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1857 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Jeddah, 18 May (SPA)—The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud this evening at his office in Al-Salam Palace received former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam. The meeting was attended by Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Receives Message From Lebanon's Al-Huss

JN1805105289 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, has received a message from His Excellency Dr Salim al-Huss on the developments of the Lebanese crisis and Arab efforts to solve this crisis in light of the extraordinary Arab summit, due to be held in Morocco next week. The message was delivered by Ilyas Saba, former Lebanese finance minister and Dr al-Huss' envoy, when he was received by the president at Al-Bahr Palace this morning. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Tahnun ibn Muhammad, representative of the ruler in the Eastern Region, and Khamis Bitti al-Rumaythi, director of the President's Office.

Arens on U.S. Support for Peace Initiative

TA1905060089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 May 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Arens says he has won broad, unreserved support for the Israeli peace proposal. He made this statement after talks with senior U.S. officials in Washington, including Secretary of State James Baker. More from Connie Lonn in Washington.

[Begin recording] [Lonn] Foreign Minister Arens has met with Secretary of State Baker and Secretary of Defense Cheney. Afterward, he was upbeat about the sessions and claimed to have solid U.S. support for Israel's elections initiative. We spoke to him outside the State Department and asked him for his assessment of his meetings with the secretary of state and the defense secretary:

[Arens] Well, as you might expect they were very constructive meetings with a very large measure of understanding and even a very large measure of agreement on the issues to be discussed here.

[Lonn] Can you be more specific? Where do they agree with you?

[Arens] Well, first of all the obvious subject under discussion is the Israeli peace initiative. I think there's agreement that this provides a real opportunity for peace, for progress toward peace in the area. The four points of the initiative, the trilateral summit, the contacts with other Arab countries, the efforts for rehabilitating the Palestinian refugees in the refugee camps in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and the holding of elections for representatives of the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. I think there is general agreement that what is needed now is wholehearted and unreserved American support for this peace initiative. That kind of support has a good chance of enlisting support amongst other countries throughout the world and eliciting a positive reaction from the Arab world, and that is a necessary precondition for this thing to really take off.

[Lonn] Foreign Minister Arens went on to claim the Israeli initiative is the only game in town, and added: The ball is now in America's court. He wants the administration to press the Palestinians to agree to the elections. He also said details of the elections are being finalized in working-level groups of diplomats. Foreign Minister Arens also told the Americans they should learn the lessons of Lebanon and pressure the Syrians to leave that country.

On the question of Soviet Jewry, Arens told the Americans he wants the Israeli Consulate in Moscow to issue the visas to the emigrating Soviet Jews. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 19 May carries an interview of Arens by Shim'on Schiffer, in which Arens addresses the PLO issue as follows: "I explained to the secretary of state and to the national security adviser that the main obstacle to progress toward peace in our region, as I see it, is the PLO. The PLO is the main obstacle to free and democratic elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Every step taken—even with the best intentions in the world—that improves the PLO's status and gives its additional prestige is not helping the peace process. On the contrary, it only creates difficulties for the peace process in the region."]

Rabin Leaves on Visit to U.S. 19 May

TA1905081889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Last night [as heard], Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin departed on a visit to the United States. Minister Rabin will meet his U.S. counterpart Richard Cheney, Secretary of State Baker, and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft.

To Discuss U.S. Economic Aid

TA1905052989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is flying today to the United States for a 10-day visit during which he will be the guest of Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami says Rabin will hold talks with President Bush and top U.S. officials, as well as meet with Jewish leaders and pay a visit to the shipyards where Israel's new missile boats are being built. With the defense minister will be David 'Ivri, director general of the Defense Ministry, and Rear Admiral Avraham Ben-Shoshan, former Navy commander and Israel's next military attache to the United States.

The Israel peace initiative will be a major aspect of the defense minister's talks, and he says an important element will be the level of future U.S. economic defense aid.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] We are entering, while I will be in Washington, the preparations for fiscal year 1991 that will start on 1 October 1990. The United States Administration prepares the budget for fiscal year 1991 by December 1989. This is going to be my main concern, and that of my colleagues, in the deliberations that will take place in the Pentagon and the State Department.

[Ben-'Ami] You mention of course that the United States sees its foreign assistance program not only in terms of giving money, but also in essence as a foreign policy tool, if you like. Is there any possibility perhaps, that because of U.S. Administration attitudes toward the Middle East conflict, specifically the Palestinian-Israeli issue, they may try and use foreign aid—could back foreign aid—as a means of pressure? Does this worry you at all?

[Rabin] I believe that the United States has realized that using FMS [foreign military sales] money for security of Israel as a leverage led nowhere. The United States realizes that the stronger Israel will be in the military sense, the better are the chances for political maneuverability on the part of Israel. Therefore I do not believe that there will be any attempt to squeeze Israel on this issue for political concessions.

And especially now, after the Government of Israel endorsed a peace initiative. A peace initiative that so far appeals to the American people. [end recording]

1 IDF Soldier Killed, 7 Wounded in Clash

TA1905101989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announces that in a clash with a terrorist squad near the Hebron District village of Bayt Awla, an IDF soldier was killed and three soldiers were wounded, one of them critically and the other two slightly. Four other soldiers were released after receiving medical treatment.

The IDF spokesman announces that the three members of the terrorist squad were killed.

The fallen soldier's name is Reserve Sergeant Yitzhaq Revah. His funeral will take place at 1430 today, at the military cemetery in Rishon Leziyyon.

At approximately 0100 last night, an IDF unit discovered a suspicious Arab car. The terrorist squad was in that car. The unit began pursuit, at the conclusion of which the squad was liquidated.

Other details we have received from the IDF spokesman are as follow: The liquidated squad had murdered Arab residents whom it suspected of collaboration and had enforced terror in western Hebron Hills. The squad has been sought for a long time by the security forces.

Shomron on Incident

TA1905111589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 May 89

[Interview with Chief of Staff Dan Shomron by 'Amos Har'el, in the village of Bayt Awla—recorded]

[Text] [Har'el] Early this morning, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron arrived in Bayt Awla in the Hebron hills. The chief of staff met 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, and Brigadier General Gabi Ofir, commander of Judaea and Samaria. The three spoke with the soldiers of the force that encountered the terror squad last night. Following the short debriefing, the chief of staff said that this was a full-fledged terror squad:

[Shomron] First, what we had last night is a case of a well-armed terror squad—this was not part of the intifadah [uprising]—we are familiar with this squad and have searched for it a long time. This squad terrorized the entire region and harmed people who maintained contacts with the authorities and the Civil Administration. It was a dangerous squad.

[Har'el] Lieutenant General Shomron says that the soldiers who clashed with the three terrorists acted properly:

[Shomron] The members of this squad fired with weapons they possessed, including a hand grenade. The reserve soldiers behaved excellently and reacted quickly, killing the members of the squad. Obviously, the terrorists were killed with live ammunition, not with plastic and rubber bullets. All the soldiers are in the possession of all kinds of ammunition. Obviously, the soldiers understood exactly what was facing them. Whoever did not have a magazine of live bullets reorganized immediately and acted appropriately.

[Har'el] The chief of staff says that the soldiers are reservists who acted quickly and according to expectations, despite the fact that they are not infantry soldiers. The chief of staff says that the soldiers are highly motivated. He emphasizes that the terror squad was armed and that it continuously terrorized local residents. Lt Gen Shomron sees no connection between the incident and the recent IDF activity in the region:

[Shomron] No, there is no connection, even though the IDF has increased its activity. The new political moves in the region naturally lead people and organizations into acting in various ways. We are reacting with preemptive action. To repeat, I do not see any change here. This squad has been armed and active and has terrorized local residents for a long time. The only change is that last night they encountered IDF soldiers. They tried to escape but were caught and killed.

[Har'el] Lt Gen Shomron says that now that we have eliminated the squad we will probably go on to deal with its aftermath. Shomron added that any such actions of terrorists causes suffering to the population; the inhabitants will be harmed by the curfew and searches which will be implemented here because of this squad.

'Terrorists' Said Fatah Members

TA1905132989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, says that the three terrorists who were killed last night in the village of Bayt Awla were members of Fatah. According to him, the members of this squad held certain contacts with the Fatah command outside the area.

The Fatah organization, on the other hand, has refused to either confirm or deny the reports that the three belonged to the organization. A Fatah official in Tunis has said that the identity of the terrorists is known to the organization. It was further reported from Tunis that the

PLO has not changed its instructions to the residents not to employ firearms against the Israel Defense Forces [IDF]. A PLO official, however, said that since this is a popular uprising, anything could happen, and the residents might use firearms to express their rage.

Shamir 'Sure' Plan Will Get Likud's Support

TA1805160089 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 May 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dan Shilon, in the Jerusalem television studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] Our guest in the Jerusalem studio today is Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Good evening, sir.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Shilon] We will quickly turn to King Husayn's reaction to your plan, and possibly other reactions as well, but first things first: I would like to ask you about the opposition within your party to the proposed political plan. Is it true, as published on your behalf recently, that you intend to go to the president of the state and submit your resignation if you do not receive the support of your party's members?

[Shamir] This question has not come up in my mind at all. This stems from a certain report that has no foundation in reality. There are, of course, different views within the Likud. This does not surprise me. The entire initiative was worked out and formulated in a relatively short period of time, and we did not have enough time to discuss it within our Knesset faction among the movement's members. There is some indignation over this as a result, and I feel it's justified. I think that we will now have time to present and explain matters to our colleagues, and I am sure that we will receive maximum support.

[Shilon] You say you are sure of this. Can you, however, conceive of still another possibility? Do you not think that it is possible you will not enjoy this support if your party's central committee is convened? Is it possible that you will lead a political move without the central committee's support?

[Shamir] This is inconceivable. I do not see such a possibility at all. I am sure I will obtain the Central Committee's support.

[Shilon] You said you were short of time. Still, with such a decisive issue—a fateful one perhaps for the State of Israel—was there no room for taking a little more time, for consulting with your party colleagues, those who have elected you, and only then bringing the initiative up in the cabinet and to the attention of the United States so as to receive its approval?

[Shamir] Sometimes important issues should be decided within a certain period of time and under certain constraints, and it is neither surprising nor rare to have it be this way. I carried the initiative with me to the United States. The date of my visit there had been set, and it was important that I bring my initiative before the U.S. authorities. We also saw the good and blessed results of that move of mine. That is the way it happened, but I do not think we missed anything. We now have sufficient time to discuss matters and hear the opinions and observations of colleagues. There is no special problem involved here.

[Shilon] Colleagues' observations? You are asking them to be a rubber stamp!

[Shamir] There is no question of a rubber stamp here. After all, we are presenting the principles of the plan today. We have not yet laid down all the details and specifics, nor have we completed the plan yet. I believe that the debate within the movement will be useful in the final analysis.

[Shilon] Mr Prime Minister, the political plan is a far-reaching plan, at least according to Minister Ari'el Sharon. Do you not rely on the strategic assessment of Minister Sharon, who views it as a first step toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state which may prove to be a disaster for the State of Israel?

[Shamir] Had I thought so I would not have touched such a plan. I am sure that it is this plan which will prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state. It is the best weapon we can use for removing such a danger from our midst.

[Shilon] Still, on the eve of elections you yourself claimed that when a plan is proposed, it is only a beginning. You attacked the Alignment, saying that whatever it is proposing is only the beginning, and erosion is sure to set in later. The same contention can be made about your plan. This plan is only the beginning, erosion is sure to set in, and it is bound to ultimately lead to a Palestinian state.

[Shamir] I know myself. I have started out with this plan, and I know how far I will pursue it. I am not afraid, nor do I view myself, under any circumstances, as being dragged into anything I do not desire.

[Shilon] Do you doubt the sincerity of the concern expressed by Yitzhaq Moda'i, a member of your party, about the interests of the State of Israel?

[Shamir] Look, I am not interested in any argument with people who still serve as members of my cabinet.

[Shilon] Not with Ari'el Sharon either?

[Shamir] With nobody.

[Shilon] Nevertheless, those who are opposed to the political plan that you proposed and that received the government's approval—do you not conceive of their opposition as a sincere one?

[Shamir] I do not doubt this. There are people whose motives are absolutely pure, and I am prepared to argue with and try to convince them. I tried to do so yesterday, with quite a bit of success too and will continue to do so. I have full confidence in my friends.

[Shilon] Earlier we mentioned the claims you made against the Alignment and the possibility of erosion. In MA'ARIV today, I read a report that you said, in a circle of your confidants, that had the Alignment proposed such a political plan, you would have voted against it because the Alignment would not have withstood pressures. Is this true?

[Shamir] There is something in this. I think there are risks on our path. There are...

[Shilon, interrupting] In other words, you would not have voted for the same plan had the Alignment proposed it?

[Shamir] Look, there are risks in any such move toward peace. The main risk is that along the way somebody, one of the partners, will want to deviate from the agreed-upon route. Then we must have the power to stop this deviation, even if this involves canceling the entire matter. I trust that we are capable of this. It is possible that if the Alignment were leading this matter, I would not have relied on them.

[Shilon] Still, look who your partner is in this move today: Yitzhaq Rabin and the Alignment are the main supporters of the plan, while it is within the Likud that we find the opposition.

[Shamir] I am referring to the Arab partner.

[Shilon] Is that all? Is the partner within Israel not important to you?

[Shamir] There can be no deviation from the move on which we agree today without my agreement.

[Shilon] Sir, I would like to have your comment on the issue of your present political reliance on segments within the Alignment, rather than within the Likud. Is that not strange in your eyes?

[Shamir] There is no such thing. I totally rely on my friends. At the same time, I am proud that this plan is the agreed creation of the two main components of the Israeli political community. This fact contains a great deal of power, power which guarantees its success.

[Shilon] There are, at least in theory, contradictions within the plan itself. There is the written law as opposed to the oral one. Yesterday, in your appearance before your Knesset faction, we heard the oral law, while the plan presents the written one. As for the oral law, you said yesterday: I will not give the Arabs anything. I believe I am quoting you accurately. If you make such a statement, can your move lead anywhere at all?

[Shamir] Look, one can explain anything, and one always has both the oral and written laws. What I said has halakic backing. In saying not an inch, for instance, it is no secret—and this has been said before—that I do not see any territorial solution in the context of the permanent solution either. I do not believe in this, nor will I support it.

[Shilon] Despite the fact that the written law, the political plan, contains a sentence that includes the word borders?

[Shamir] Borders refers to a peace treaty with Jordan. With regard to such a treaty, we will have to, among other things, agree on the borders between us and Jordan. This does not at all mean that we will give up any of our territories. I do not think that such a issue is on the agenda at all.

[Shilon] Still, when you say you will have to agree with Jordan on a territorial issue, this means there will be negotiations on borders, on territories.

[Shamir] This is a question of the demarcation of lines, and I do not think there are disagreements among us here, or even with Jordan. If there are some disagreements here and there, we will know how to insist on our interests.

[Shilon] A few minutes ago we heard an IDF Radio news flash which mentioned the reaction of King Husayn, who said that this plan is a waste of time. Who then will you talk with in Jordan?

[Shamir] I hope that we have not heard the last word from the Jordanian king, among others, on this. Let us wait and see.

[Shilon] Will candidates who are declared PLO people be able to get elected in the elections you propose?

[Shamir] We will have to agree on this when we determine the rules of election in the territories. We will have a problem, for instance, as to whether people who have been charged with murders or crimes can elect or be elected. The answer, in my opinion, is no. On the other hand though, if somebody stands up and says he believes the PLO is right, this is not sufficient reason for disqualifying him.

[Shilon] Let us examine for a moment the chances of this plan being accepted. You said earlier that your partners are the Arabs. The written law has no Arab partners, especially not Palestinians, for the time being. Jordan and the Palestinians are opposed, while Egypt is examining the plan. In addition, you surely have no partners for the oral law. Is this then only a public relations move?

[Shamir] This is not a public relations move. This is a very calculated move, truly and sincerely intended to promote peace and the settlement of the conflict between us and our neighbors. At the same time, I will not deny that our embarking on this initiative vis-a-vis the entire world has already greatly benefited our standing, and benefited us, and I am not sorry for this.

[Shilon] Is this initiative a result of an elegant U.S. pressure, U.S. hints, or perhaps a rift or deterioration in relations with the United States?

[Shamir] It is absolutely devoid of any pressure. In general, we should cure ourselves of talking about U.S. pressure. U.S. policy, as a rule, employs no pressure. This is the United States' trademark. Regarding an ally such as Israel, in particular, the Americans believe it is worthwhile to try to convince us sometimes. Still, their and our diplomatic dictionary does not contain the term pressure.

[Shilon] Mr Shamir, it was stated that the political plan will take off when the intifadah [uprising] stops. The intifadah does not stop, though. Do you intend to continue to push forward with your political plan while the intifadah is continuing?

[Shamir] Look, it is clear that the Arabs will have to choose between a continuation of the intifadah, and entering the process of a peace initiative. The two cannot coexist.

[Shilon] In theory, they can say the intifadah has already served them well, that you initiated your political move in the wake of the intifadah. In other words, perhaps there is every reason to believe—and I am here citing Ari'el Sharon's remarks—that your political plan will only encourage them to carry on with the intifadah.

[Shamir] I do not believe so. I think that the very publication of the plan has dealt them a serious blow in the sphere of public relations and their image worldwide. They admit as much themselves. They too engage in internal arguments. This, however, makes no difference. They will have to decide on this dilemma: continuing the intifadah or entering the negotiation process. I am convinced that entering the negotiation process serves their interests and will benefit them. The choice, though, is in their hands. Our duty will be to prove to them that the intifadah alternative does not exist.

[Shilon] Mr Shamir, can you decide on canceling, eliminating, or stopping the intifadah with military means?

[Shamir] It is not a question of decision. The decision exists. The intifadah must stop, in our opinion.

[Shilon] Can we stop it with our own power, though?

[Shamir] We are active in this direction, and I am sure we will succeed.

[Shilon] In an interview on the eve of Independence Day you told television correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir that the intifadah is another of Israel's wars. This was not stated at the beginning of the intifadah. There were assessments by Israeli ministers then, perhaps not by you, that this is a local and temporary matter. Have we been surprised by another war then?

[Shamir] I never said this. From the very beginning, I said that the intifadah is a new form of Arab fighting against us, and that we should find the best means to cope with it. This is what we are doing. We may not have found the most suitable means yet, but we shall do so in any case. We shall overcome this too. [passage omitted]

Peres: Vote Will Create 'Irreversible Process'

TA1805161589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 May 89

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, at Labor Party headquarters, by Gay Zohar and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good evening, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Zohar] We have heard about the political debate now being carried on in the Labor Party, and of the dispute in the Likud. The question is whether you, as one who has a political plan that is different from the one the cabinet has adopted, will wish to bring it out some day, even though the possibilities presented by this present government plan have not been exhausted.

[Peres] We all have short memories. In October 1988 we—myself included—proposed elections. In the course of our negotiations with the Likud for the establishment of this government, I proposed that this element be introduced in the government guidelines. The fact that the Likud now agrees to it is not sufficient reason for me to withdraw from it.

At the same time, all the basic differences between our two parties still prevail. Yesterday Mr Shamir said: Not an inch, meaning that he will give nothing away. What we are saying is that out of concern for Israel, and so as to maintain the State of Israel's character, as well as for other reasons, we support Resolution 242, which in fact means territorial compromise, or as the Arabs and the Americans term it—territories for peace.

[Zohar] Perhaps we could go back to the election plan. Today we heard Egypt and Jordan issue very cool reactions, contrary to the message relayed to Israel by Dennis Ross. How should we view these reactions?

[Peres] The fact that there are bouts of violent opposition in the Arab world should surprise no one. The Arab world in general is not accustomed to democratic elections.

[Mardor] Were there no expectations that Egypt would at least partially adopt the election and peace plan?

[Peres] Yes, there have been expectations, there still are, but there was also an assessment that opposition would be proffered. We are still in the initial stages, and we have not yet said everything we should either. There are many issues that are still unclear as far as the outside elements are concerned, and that are subject to controversy from within. A process has been launched; now a process of clarifications is starting, in the course of which we will see whether the positive points can overcome the negative.

[Mardor] When you mention the disputed issues, such as the not-an-inch, or territories for peace issue; such as the East Jerusalem Arabs; such as international supervision—do you believe Labor and the Likud can reach an understanding on these crucial matters?

[Peres] As for the permanent solution, I do not believe we can reach an understanding, although I think that the moment elections in the territories are held, an irreversible process will be created. The moment a legitimate representation is elected that is recognized by Israel and the world, a new protagonist, who cannot be ignored, will enter the picture. This is a protagonist whom we will have established and nurtured so that he will become a party in the negotiations. And he will indeed be a party to this. All this makes the situation irreversible. I am saying this because I see the picture with realistic eyes.

[Zohar] Will U.S. support for the election plan—even massive support—suffice to bring about its implementation?

[Peres] I think the Americans too will present us with more demands. I am also not sure they have said everything yet. Perhaps they did say everything, but not out loud. The whole thing is not a finished product, but rather an opening move. There is certain to be quite a lot of tussling, and not a few ups and downs.

[Zohar] On the same issue: In a few hours, Minister Arens will meet with the U.S. secretary of state. What is he supposed to say when Mr Baker asks him, for instance, about East Jerusalem Arabs?

[Peres] I assume he will reply that we have not yet decided on this issue.

[Mardor] Minister Peres, as for the blockade and the partial curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip residents who are no longer coming to work in Israel: What is your opinion on this issue of residents of the territories no longer working in Israel, and of foreign workers who, as requested by the Histadrut, will not be allowed to work here either? Who will do the work?

[Peres] First of all, I do not think the question is who will do the work. We have enough workers, and we can do the work ourselves. By the way, we should work ourselves, too. Israel's potential work force is 1.5 million people. Even if 100,000 or 150,000 laborers are from the territories, they are still only 7 to 10 percent of the total potential. However, in my opinion, we must not prohibit Arabs from the territories from holding jobs, because it will condemn them to a most grave economic siege. We would be pushing them into a corner in which more and more bitterness and opposition would be generated.

[Mardor] Does this mean that you object to this order?

[Peres] It is no secret that the Gaza Strip, whose whole area is a mere 350,000 km [as heard], is the most overcrowded place in the world. What do we expect the 650,000 people to do there? Under the present situation, these people are our responsibility and under our rule, and we are responsible for what goes on in the Gaza Strip. We are not responsible for only one aspect of the Gaza Strip. Therefore, I think the message that was relayed to the Strip residents is: Right, you can come work in Israel, but not harm the residents of Israel.

[Zohar] What about individual exit permits? This idea was voiced yesterday by the coordinator of government activities in the territories.

[Peres] I think that it demands an indescribably extensive administration...

[Zohar, interrupting] I meant the principle itself.

[Peres] There is nothing in the world that is a pure matter of principle. Of course, Israel must retain the authority to either grant or not grant work. That authority, however, should not be misused.

[Zohar] Minister Shim'on Peres, we thank you very much.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Levi Expresses Opposition to Shamir Plan

TA1905062689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Minister David Levi will vote against the political plan approved by the government in the Likud Central Committee session. Minister Levi said it would have been possible to prevent the crisis regarding the support of the plan had the prime minister consulted his ministers. According to Levi, the Likud was not elected to

facilitate a political plan that contradicts the party's very essence. Minister Levi also said that the political plan is seen in Europe and the United States in a different light than in Jerusalem. Minister David Levi spoke with our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz upon his return from a visit to Britain and the United States. Our correspondent notes that Minister Levi's comments make a clear decision regarding the political plan in the Likud Central Committee more difficult.

Sharon Demands Changes in Plan at Likud Meeting
TA1905091789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 May 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Dan Petreanu]

[Text] Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon's campaign against the government's peace initiative entered high gear last night as he appeared before several hundred Likud central committee members in Tel Aviv and charged the Shamir-Rabin plan "will lead to more violence, more terror, chance of war."

Many at the meeting, including MK [member of the Knesset] Mikha'el Kleiner, demanded that Sharon be appointed defence minister instead of Yitzhaq Rabin.

Surprisingly, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu also attended the meeting.

Sharon asserted that the recent hard-line statements by Prime Minister Shamir "bear no resemblance to what is written in the plan."

Sharon is demanding that Shamir put in writing a promise that the intifadah [uprising] will be suppressed before the election process begins. He is also demanding that Shamir include in the written plan a pledge that East Jerusalemites will not participate in the elections.

Palestinian Leaders Lobbying PLO for Plan
TA1805200489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The United States expects the Israeli Government to reply, by the end of next month, to several questions in principle concerning the Israeli peace initiative. The U.S. delegation which visited Israel met last night and this morning with academic and military people in order to examine Yitzhaq Shamir's elections idea. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports from the studio:

The U.S. State Department's experts delegation which visited Israel, Jordan, and Egypt this week secretly stayed in Israel another 24 hours and met with academic and government people in order to examine the idea of elections in the territories. The bottom line of their meetings indicates that the United States expects Israel to give clear replies, by the end of June, to a series of major questions on which the chances for elections are conditional. These questions concern the participation of the East Jerusalem residents in the elections, the method of supervising the elections, the freedom of the election campaign, and the Israeli measures for achieving calm in the territories. These questions were already raised about 2 weeks ago in a letter from the U.S. secretary of state to Foreign Minister Arens, but they have not yet received responses. We have learned that it is for this reason that Secretary Baker will tell Minister Arens tonight that as long as Israel's position on these questions is unclear, the ball cannot be passed to the Palestinian court.

In the meantime, several of the Palestinian leaders in the territories are active in Europe and Cairo trying to convince the PLO leadership not to torpedo the elections idea outright. This activity by the leaders of the territories is being carried out with the knowledge and blessing of the defense establishment and minister, who are currently engaged in numerous persuasion efforts among the Palestinians. A Defense Ministry team has already started to work out ideas for the elections in the territories. Unlike Minister Arens, next week in Washington the defense minister will be able to discuss practical ideas for bridging the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians.

The ball has not yet passed to the Palestinian court then, and the United States emphasizes that the more serious Israel is in consolidating its new political package, the easier it will be for the United States to get the Palestinians to the negotiating table. In any event, Foreign Ministry experts state that whoever torpedoes the elections process will pay the price.

Rabin Gives Al-Husayni Free Rein To Promote Plan
TA1905114089 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 May 89 p A1, 2

[Report by Ran Dagoni, Ilan Bakhar, Drora Perel, Shefi Gabay, and Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has given Faysal al-Husayni permission to travel anywhere he desires and to meet anyone he wishes. Minister Rabin gave him this authorization so that Faysal al-Husayni will be able to persuade the PLO leaders not to reject the election proposal. [passage omitted]

Egypt, Jordan Show Interest in Initiative
JN1705101289 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Egypt and Jordan have shown interest in the Israeli peace initiative and asked the United States to supply them with more information before they define their official position on the initiative. This was concluded from the shuttle tour of the region's countries by the U.S. delegation headed by Dennis Ross during the past 2 days.

Our correspondent for political affairs Shlomo Ganor said that the U.S. delegation, which met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last night, conveyed the Jordanian and Egyptian officials' viewpoint. The U.S. delegation also stressd Washington's support for the Israeli initiative and its determination to give momentum to the peace march. Our correspondent added that the U.S. delegation will return to Washington this evening to submit a report to the U.S. secretary of state, who will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Peres Urged To Lead Opposition Against Plan
TA1705193289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 May 89 p 9

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "A Radical Change in Peres is Required"]

[Text] Shim'on Peres has said that Yitzhaq Shamir has undergone a radical change. The question now is whether Peres can undergo a radical change as well. He was beaten in the elections. His position in his party is eroding. This week he was the star of the party congresses in Italy, but here, however, his popularity is plunging. Echoes of his bad mood can be heard from his protective circles. Now is his chance precisely because his situation is such that he has nothing to lose. He has an opportunity to do what he has prevented himself from doing for quite a long time: Speak openly and firmly, radically, about the danger of the failure of the initiative for agreement.

What could be worse for Peres than to hear from his hospital bed that his old time rival, dear Yitzhaq, has in fact agreed on a "peace initiative" with the leader of the opposing party? After Rabin came out (without him) with his proposition for elections in the territories, Peres said that he also has a plan. Where is it? We have not heard of it since. What we have heard are conformist statements regarding opposition to a Palestinian state, and remarks on the PLO's despicableness.

No new thoughts came to us from Peres; no inspiring idea. He seemed afraid to expose himself—in his uncomfortable internal party and public status—to more criticism. He either sat on the fence, or chose the safe middle of the road. His voice was not heard, at least not publicly, to fill those gaps in the Israeli plan that might attract forces that could make it crumble. If he favors territories for peace and international supervision of the elections, we should hear him say so. If he believes that the elections will not be held, one way or another, without the participation of the East Jerusalem Arabs, why is he so unnecessarily cautious?

Peres finds himself in an almost Ben-Gurion situation that he is familiar with from the past: A former prime minister who does not approve of the current government's conduct. Just like his predecessor, his idol Ben-Gurion, Peres holds a minority position in the cabinet. It can be overstated and said that of the leading political quartet—Shamir, Rabin, Arens, Peres—the latter is the only genuine Alignment representative.

This situation has been created in the midst of historical circumstances. A failure of the current political move could get us into serious trouble. The door opened for negotiations and progress toward an arrangement (and the elimination of the uprising) might be barred again if solutions to issues in dispute between us and the PLO and its representatives in the territories, and between Jerusalem and Washington are not found. Despite his weakness, there is no other politician in Peres' position. He could outweigh the redundant Israeli opposition. Instead, Peres choses to join them in word, or in keeping silent.

In the cabinet Peres supported the plan without a reservation. Other Alignment ministers—Moshe Shahal, Gad Ya'aqobi, 'Ezer Weizman—made their reservations clear; Peres did not. In order to understand his position, not justify it, it should be added that he fears that others might say that he envies Rabin, and would not let him operate freely. It is a nice argument, even pathetic, but who cares?

There should be a distribution of the tasks on both sides of the fence. Internal elements here should take care of nay-saying Israeli factors, while the United States, with the assistance of the USSR, should deal with Palestinian opposition while pressing Israel. These lines of action are interrelated: The more reasons the PLO has to object, the harder it will be for the superpowers to neutralize them.

So where are you Shim'on Peres? His closest aide, Yosi Beilin, keeps fostering dreams of quitting the government. These are illusions. We saw their results in the former government where the Alignment had the political initiative, but was buried by the Likud strong hand. Leading the initiative has now passed from the Alignment as well. What is left is the carrying out of a holding defense by the Alignment and the parties to its left against the mines the Likud is planting with its proposed plan.

Even on this issue Peres is not showing the determination, the bluntness, the political courage needed to save the elections plan from collapse. In the Likud, an uprising against the plan has begun along the Sharon-Moda'i axis. It is no accident that raging bull Sharon has chosen the repelling idiom of the bloodpath in a slaughterhouse to describe the path Israel would take with this elections plan. Opposition has also been noticed inside the Alignment, a party showing an increasing number of rightwing flashes.

Peres' duty now is to lead the political forces on the other side. For reasons we can only guess, Peres' real opinions (please remember: "I have a plan") are kept secret. Let him reveal them. Let him fight for them. He has nothing to loose but the chains tying him to the Finance Ministry.

There seems to be no need to remind him of recent remarks he has not kept secret concerning the dangers of the failure of the current political effort. It is doubtful whether Israel will have a better chance in the future.

Israeli, Arab Papers View Shamir Election Plan

Plan 'Clear,' 'Not Vague'

TA1705080589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 May 89 p A14

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Is Shamir Still a 'Shamirist'?"; words in bold as published]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin believes that Sunday's cabinet decision approving the peace initiative is of "historic significance." On the other hand, Rafi Edri, his younger colleague, who is less experienced in political affairs, thinks it is just a fraud, that the plan is meant to delude the public. If your intention is to deal with the PLO, Edri rebuked the prime minister and the defense minister, tell the truth and do not hide behind vague formulations!

When all is said and done, what is concealed within and behind the 20-clause document, entitled "A Peace Initiative by the Government of Israel"? In fact, why cannot a minister, even a neophyte such as Edri, grasp the true meaning of the Israeli initiative? Simply, the minister told his friends, I inquired but received no answer.

Who did not answer? The prime minister.

Will the Americans present this document to the PLO? Edri asked, hinting that thus in fact begins the indirect negotiations with the PLO.

Shamir: I do not know.

In Clause 3 you explicitly write "Israel will not conduct negotiations with the PLO," but in Clause 15 you write that the Palestinian representatives to be elected in the territories "shall be the **central** Palestinian component in the negotiations for the permanent solution." In other words, when the time comes the elected representatives could be joined by "other representatives," or else why did you not write that the elected representatives would be the exclusive component in the talks with Israel? This question also remained unanswered.

The prime minister urged the ministers to approve the document and was not too thrilled to clarify its obscure points.

It will be interesting to see whether in his political statement to the Knesset today the prime minister will be more specific. Most certainly he will not, because such a document—described by the defense minister in the cabinet session as "a compromise document"—could only be attained thanks to this vagueness. The compromise is not between Israel's positions and those of the Palestinian element, but between the Likud and the Alignment. What some cabinet members saw as a disadvantage, others saw as a virtue. I welcome the joint document, Minister Gad Ya'aqobi said in the cabinet session, both for what it includes and for what it does not. In my opinion, its greatness lies in the fact that it does not set ironclad positions and does not tie the government's hands. From my teacher and master, Dr Henry Kissinger, we all learned the words "constructive ambiguity," and I admit that there is plenty of that in this document.

The truth, however, is different. The inferences from the peace initiative document approved by the cabinet are rather clear and not vague at all. For example, it is clear that Israel will not make elections in the territories contingent on the termination of the intifadah [uprising]. All that is said on this issue is that Israel **proposes** free democratic relations "in an atmosphere devoid of violence." The document says "proposes," but does not "make them contingent" on the termination of violence as a prerequisite. What is so vague about this? The assessment is that if agreement is reached on the elections, "the intifadah will die of its own will." But there is no linkage here.

Also, there is no condition or vagueness when it comes to the participation of the Arabs of East Jerusalem in the elections. The document just says in general terms that "as to the substance of the elections, it is **recommended** that a proposal of regional elections be adopted, the details of which shall be determined in further discussions." The document says "recommended"—it does not make an ultimatum. All that can be inferred from this is that Israel intends to propose regional elections and will not include Jerusalem as an electoral district. Hence, if an inhabitant of East Jerusalem votes in another district for any candidate of his liking, that would be fine. And what if the Israeli "recommendation" is rejected? Obviously, all the Alignment ministers would support the position of the defense minister, who favors allowing the inhabitants of East Jerusalem to participate in the election of the Palestinian representatives. The Likud, on the other hand, will frenetically start looking for another formula which would be seen as "a reasonable compromise." It seems, however, that the political process will not break up over this clause alone.

Presumably, when Shamir stated—and reiterated in Sunday's cabinet session—that there is no sense at all in starting internal arguments before it is clear that there is a chance of opening negotiations with the Palestinians, he told himself that he would deal with the criticism of his initiative when the time comes. At the moment, it appears that the PLO will not accept Israel's political initiative, which is based on the principle of an interim agreement, if Israel does not make a commitment about the nature of the final agreement, which according to the PLO, must be the be-all and end-all: the fulfillment of "self-determination," namely, a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The attempt to make it clear that Israel will never talk to the PLO but will agree, as written in the document, to talk with "every Palestinian Arab residing in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, who shall be elected by the inhabitants to represent them...may be a legitimate participant in the conduct of negotiations with Israel," actually is an imaginary attempt. Faysal al-Husayni is as much a PLO leader as any other Palestinian leader in the territories or abroad. To wit, when Rabin sought to establish a dialogue with him, Al-Husayni referred him to the PLO, stressing that he does not know any other address.

Some time ago Abba Eban said the situation reminded him of the incident in some reception in which a lady approached President Charles de Gaulle and introduced herself as one of his greatest admirers, obsequiously admitting: "I am a Gaullist." To which the French president replied: "But I am not."

In view of this document the question arising this week is: What is Shamir? Is he still a "Shamirist?"

This question will be answered only when the chances of launching negotiations with the Palestinians on an "interim agreement" are "clarified."

Plan Creating Power Struggle

TA1905094189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 May 89 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "At Each Other's Throats"]

[Text] At the first glance, this appears to be an infringement of proper administrative procedures, or—at best—as another round in the wars of the Jews. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi accuses his prime minister and party leader of embarking on "a course which could be tragic for the state;" he also defines his initiative as a "time bomb" and "a leap from the 100th floor." Some mouth he has, this Levi. Yitzhaq Moda'i, a senior partner in the Likud and a government and cabinet member, convenes a news conference where he demands the prime minister's resignation. He accuses him (him, of all people) of departing from the Likud ideology. As for Ari'el Sharon—also a king of Israel [reference to the recent election campaign when Levi and Sharon were cheered by the crowds as kings of Israel] and a cabinet minister—he accuses Shamir of paving the way for the establishment of a Palestinian state. He also "notifies him" that in mid June, he intends to convene the party Central Committee for a debate on the initiative, an overt challenging of the Likud head's leadership, which causes the exchange of some harsh words between them. In the Knesset, meanwhile, only a small part of the Likud faction gives the Shamir government a vote of confidence.

We do not know yet whether the government initiative will bring us a peace settlement. What is clear is that it has brought about a renewed—and powerful—struggle for national supremacy. The struggle, mere tips of which are visible at present, is over leadership in the two major parties and over rule of the country. The cease-fire has nearly expired in both parties. The sight of men at the throats of their fellow men can be considered as the entree in the tough personal struggles that are forthcoming in the upcoming weeks and months.

The prime minister's opponents in the Likud will take advantage of the initiative to harm the authority he has mustered recently, thus trying to foil his transparent intention to skip a generation and pass the rule over to the princes [term used to describe the Likud younger generation] with or without Arens. From the moment the Rabin-Shamir initiative was conceived, a competition was launched in the Likud to prove who is more loyal to the Eretz Yisra'el principle. Although there is no need to supervise Shamir on this matter—for him, not giving up the territories is a religion—with Levi, Sharon, Moda'i, and Arens breathing down his neck, he will be unable to deviate from the principle even accidentally. Moshe Arens, a friend and a historic partner, also stands guard. At the meeting of the forum of four, which was supposed to approve the Shamir-Rabin plan, he surprised Shamir by bringing a tough draft of his own.

The very fact that Shamir was forced to declare in front of the Likud faction in the Knesset that he will not give up even an inch—not exactly the best jingle to promote the sale of his initiative to the Palestinians—proves how difficult he will find it to perform tactical maneuvers.

The struggle in the Labor Party has not surfaced yet, but the Peres-Rabin relations, which have been characterized by a schism, are in fact nearing the moment of confrontation and truth. Peres feels disgruntled because Rabin has maneuvered him to the outskirts of the arena, both by dragging the party to a Shamir-headed unity government and by removing him to exile in the Treasury and becoming the central Labor Party persona in this government. Rabin's soaring popularity in public opinion polls, versus Peres' continuous decline and the disappointment with his leadership voiced in his party (by the way, expressions of disappointment with him have been heard aplenty in Washington, too,) have caused Rabin no longer to see Peres as the natural number one candidate.

"Peres invented the personal race in the name of democracy, and I believe he will take it for granted that other comrades have a right to put up their candidacy," he says in an interview with 'AL HAMISHMAR, in a subtle hint at his intentions. In his opinion, Peres—under the influence of Yosi Beilin—has carried his party too far left. Rabin's people have said that Peres does not understand that while the Likud can initiate peace without resorting to the Alignment—it will be supported anyway (see the peace with Egypt)—the Alignment needs the support of the Likud public. "There will be no settlement without wide support," opines Rabin. He believes that it lies in his capability to retrieve the Labor's historic status as a

pragmatic and active party that will regain the trust it had lost under Peres' leadership. Rabin's enhanced position—which will become even more so if the initiative in which he is a partner gains momentum—may encourage him to run against Peres.

The outcome of the personal struggles in the Likud and the Labor Parties will also establish which party is to rule in the next years. The impression that Shamir and Rabin have made a pact and that the two are henceforth the country's unchallenged rulers, is very misleading. This alliance, a curiosity in itself, does not have a long life expectancy. It was established on the basis of short-range interests: Shamir is using Rabin to block Sharon, while Rabin is using Shamir to remove Peres. The moment their political initiative gains momentum and the Americans begin to demand changes in the plan, so as to make it acceptable and applicable, a serious divergence will emerge between the two.

Rabin, who has coined the expression, "I do not mind it if I need a visa to visit Gush 'Ezyon," believes in the principle of territory for peace. He is willing to give up territory, a lot of territory, which is not exactly the content of Shamir's not-an-inch declaration. Once the initiative reaches the moment when a clarification of this issue is required—and everyone knows there will be no elections without it—their ways will part. The personal struggles in the two parties will be accelerated to allow for reorganization in anticipation of the ballots.

The political initiative has unnoticeably and unintentionally sparked the perhaps decisive struggle for supremacy. The success or failure of the plan approved this week will determine the identity of the survivors who will head the two parties; it will also decide which of the two parties—with whom and on what grounds—is going to come out victorious in the struggle for supremacy. Take a good front-row seat; it is going to be a fine spectacle.

Plan To Divide Palestinians

TA1605180589 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 15 May 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Peace Initiative or a 'Local' Compromise?"]

[Text] After what must have been a heated debate conducted by the Israeli Government for 7 hours, discussing what Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir calls the "peace initiative" or "peace plan," Shamir announced that his initiative won the approval of 20 members of the government while it was opposed by 6 ministers. The opposition was evenly divided between the Alignment, the Likud, and other parties of the government coalition. This outcome prompted one of the opponents from the Likud to describe what had been voted on as a "compromise between the Alignment and the Likud," deeming it unlikely that the debate had centered on a peace plan between Israel and the Palestinians.

Yes, the principle of holding elections is a brilliant idea that dazzles the West—free, democratic, and unblemished elections. Yet one who carefully studies what is being proposed to us will find that this proposal is devoid of any content and meaning. This proposal is merely a repetition, but in different terms, of what has been proposed previously. It was rejected at the time because it cannot lead to any result, and does not meet the minimal demands of the Palestinian people.

The novelty in this new-old plan, though, is that it was announced in the presence of a high-ranking U.S. delegation that specifically came in order to become acquainted with the details of the "Israeli plan."

As has become the custom with foreign delegations, invitations were sent to a number of Palestinians to meet with members of the U.S. delegation who themselves had not yet studied the content of the Israeli plan.

Here, one or more questions arise: Did the U.S. delegation arrive to learn the views of the Palestinians when the United States knows, as do all the countries of the world, that the Palestinians have agreed upon a sole legitimate representative and that they have presented to the world a peace plan with clear outlines? Or did the U.S. delegation arrive to be apprised of the Israeli plan of which it was unaware before meeting the Palestinians?

The "plan," as has become clear from advance notice and from reports leaked about its details, aims at creating confusion and sowing discord among Palestinians. At times it talks about "provincial" elections, and other times about elections which are neither municipal nor political.

In the face of this ambiguity and blackout on details, we who are inside should close ranks, unify our expression, and refrain from being dragged behind the mirage of dazzling promises.

Plan Ignores Problem's 'Core'

TA1605194489 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 May 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Shamir's Proposals!!"]

[Text] After becoming acquainted with the broad outlines of the document approved by the Israeli Government 2 days ago, which it named the "Israeli peace plan," we can say that this plan was formulated to resolve differences between Likud and Labor, not to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The basic clauses of this document were based on the issues that Israel rejects, and not on principles that might launch the peace process. The document affirmed rejection of the principle of PLO participation in the peace process, and the establishment of a Palestinian state. In short, we can say that the document ignored the core of

the conflict, represented in addressing the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, especially those related to the Palestinian people's national rights.

The document talked about peace with the Arab states, resolving the problems of the refugee camps residents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and holding elections with the aim of entering into negotiations on "self-rule." The document affirmed that the ultimate aim of a permanent solution is to make arrangements for peace and a dialogue between Israel and Jordan. The question that arises is: What about the Palestinian problem? Will the disavowal of the aspirations and demands of the Palestinian people contribute to advancing the peace process, or will it lead to taking steps backward?

This document contained many operational issues and matters, but it failed to address a lot of subjects, such as Israeli withdrawal and relinquishing of sovereignty. One glance at the last clause of the third point entitled "basic premises" clearly indicates the document's rejection of the principle of "land in return for peace."

This clause says that "there will be no change in the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip other than in accordance with the basic guidelines of the government," meaning that no change will occur without prior approval of the Labor Party or the Likud. As is known, the Likud considers the West Bank and Gaza Strip an indivisible part of "Greater Israel."

This proves that the document has left the final status of the occupied territories in abeyance, bearing in mind that the position of the entire world, including the United States, is based on the principle of land in return for peace.

'Ezer Weizman expressed his rejection of this document saying: "It does not compare even with the Camp David accords." What does the Israeli Government hope to achieve with such a document that tries to turn back the hands of the clock, while it ignores the core of the conflict represented in resolving the Palestinian problem in all its aspects?

Qatzav: Territory Workers Sabotaging Economy

TA1905095189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 May 89 p 18

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Qatzav claims that workers from the territories are engaged in a wide-ranging campaign to damage the products of factories in which they are employed, but that factory owners prefer not to take any action "lest they suffer further damage."

In a six-page letter sent this week to cabinet ministers detailing his proposal to close off the territories for three months, Qatzav asserts that "slogan writing and other hostile actions have become a regular thing in many factories."

He states that a textile factory manager in the South told him that suits produced by his factory had been cut with scissors before being exported.

Qatzav also lists "other attacks for which there is no concrete proof of responsibility of the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza—but which cannot be ignored." Among these the minister lists:

—"Complaints that the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza are placing broken glass in food served in hotels and restaurants. There are also complaints that they are contaminating the food with spit and urine."

—Reports by the security officer of the Health Ministry of cases of arson and sabotage of essential medical equipment in hospitals.

—"Claims are heard" that Arab construction workers are not putting the prescribed amounts of steel and cement into construction work. "If this is true," Qatzav notes, "then in the next years one can expect the collapse of residential buildings in which many Israelis live."

—Arson of forests and agricultural fields.

—Attempts by vehicles from the territories—"especially heavy vehicles"—to cause accidents with Israeli cars.

—"A constant concern" that Arabs are introducing illegal drugs into Israel "to damage Israeli society."

In his letter Qatzav proposes that the territories be closed for three months, and, at the same time, that the government call on university and high-school students "to fulfil the national mission and replace the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza during the summer months."

During the closing-off period, Qatzav writes, the IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] should display "massive presence" in the territories, and also launch an operational plan to end the disturbances.

During this period, the media "whose very presence inflames the disturbances—and sometimes stages them, should be barred from entering the territories."

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 19 May in a report by Alex Fishman, Ilan Kfir, and Mikhal Qedem on page one adds that "Defense Minister Rabin yesterday informed Minister Qatzav that he is examining Qatzav's proposal to close areas in the territories in order to reduce the scope of the intifadah [uprising]. Rabin said he is considering Qatzav's proposal favorably and the

curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip over the past few days corresponds with the proposals' suggestion to close areas until calm is restored. He added that this mode of action might also be implemented in the West Bank."]

No Replacement of Arabs by Foreigners Intended

TA1905095389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 May 89 p 18

[Text] The Employment Service has no intention of allowing employers to bring in unskilled foreign workers to replace Palestinians, Employment Service director-general David Mena' said yesterday. At a meeting of senior Employment Service officials, Mena' said restrictions governing entry of foreign workers would only change if the cabinet authorized such a move.

Purpose of Gaza Closure Seen as 'Dubious'

TA1805140589 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 May 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The PLO and the Garbage Bin"]

[Text] It is easy to understand the distress of a government aware that helplessness weakens it, both in the eyes of its subjects and its voters. The Israeli Government—including all the security, police, and intelligence branches—has failed to find a proper response to the determination of the Palestinian population in the territories to keep the uprising on a low flame. The intifadah [uprising] has become sort of a fact of life, a constant presence on which material and spiritual Israeli assets are wasted in vain. As time passes, the intifadah has became a routine phenomenon encountering a growing measure of public apathy, particularly on the part of those who do not reside or are not summoned for military service in the territories and, consequently, do not feel its impact directly. The constant turmoil on both sides of the political spectrum objecting to the government policy vis-a-vis the intifadah—with the rightwing demanding further repression and the leftwing calling for a dialogue on true peace—has excluded the vast and complacent middle-of-the-road sector in Israel. This sector has seemed to budge only when the manifestations of the uprising have reached its threshold, particularly in the wake of the abduction of the soldiers Avi Sasportas and Ilan Sa'adon. Then, anger seethed to the point that Israelis—with a little encouragement from politicians and the feeling that this genie might escape from the bottle and break the government's back—attacked inhabitants of the territories. It seems that this feeling generated the decision to do something, no matter what, for Israelis to see and the Palestinians to fear.

There is nothing wrong in the political essence of the decision itself. The nature of the Israeli campaign against those elements hindering a solution with the Palestinians should be based on political considerations. Such considerations take priority even over so-called operational or professional considerations. As the process designed to lead to peace negotiations begins, it is only natural that the Israeli Government should seek to undo the image of being dragged behind out of weakness, and persuade the Palestinians that they had better resort to political means since the effect of force is limited.

Understanding as we do the circumstances, the purpose of the measures adopted against the inhabitants of Gaza seems quite dubious. Seeing that the intention is not to keep Gaza in a box for a long period of time, for fear that it might ferment and ultimately explode (the chief of staff said as much 2 days ago; being a military man, he knows that a siege that blocks retreat routes for the besieged steers them toward desperate actions), the population is actually being asked to hang on until the fury subsides in just a matter of a few days. Its suffering will be bearable and may only exacerbate its obstinacy. On the other hand, a message is being sent to the Israeli society and economy in that some sectors of production, services, and trade have come to depend on the inhabitants of the territories. If the Gazans' absence continues, the trash piling up in the streets in the center of Israel will attest to the correlation between the PLO in Gaza and the garbage in Tel Aviv.

Instead of dispelling the image of helplessness, the closure of Gaza and the expulsion of workers back to it might only emphasize it. Maybe something good will come out of it, in that it will lay bare all the negative phenomena entailed in annexation. But it seems that, more than anything else, what Yitzhaq Shamir wants today is to clamp a curfew on his party's central committee and oust some of the leading agitators in its midst.

U.S. Seeks To Block PLO Role in World Organs

TA1205150989 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 May 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Civilization Is Neither Dollars Nor Skyscrapers"]

[Text] In a continuation of its biased policies in favor of Israel, which are always hostile to the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, the U.S. Administration is premeditatedly continuing its feverish campaign to stop the series of diplomatic and political victories achieved by the PLO in the international arena after responding favorably to all the requirements for peace. These victories have placed the U.S. Administration and its minor ally in an impasse from which they cannot extricate themselves except by sometimes chasing the PLO out of humanitarian international organizations and other times by casting doubt on the strategic positions adopted by the PLO after being ratified by its highest legislative bodies. These positions have received an unprecedented international welcome.

The U.S. Administration, therefore, by frantically trying to block the road before the State of Palestine and by preventing it from actively participating in humanitarian international organizations affiliated to the United Nations, is revealing its ugly face that is hostile to the

Palestinian people and is reinforcing the fact that the U.S. positions regarding the conflict in the region are always dictated by the Israeli positions. Thus, the U.S. Administration is affirming the falseness and invalidity of U.S. claims about concern for the establishment of peace. On the other hand, this calls for displaying the highest degree of caution in dealing with U.S. positions and not becoming too intimate with this administration because it is incapable of playing the role of mediator.

The U.S. Administration, by practicing acts of financial blackmail against international organizations that wish to have the PLO join as a member, is harming the lofty humanitarian values and principles on which these humanitarian organizations have been established. The U.S. Administration believes that civilization is represented in the dollars and skyscrapers which it provides to these organizations in helping them to carry out their programs.

Civilization has never been dollars, buildings, skyscrapers, or modern tanks. Civilization is a series of lofty humanitarian values and principles which under no circumstances should be subjected to blackmail or bargaining.

While we hope that the State of Palestine will be able to breach the wall which Washington is trying to build in the face of its efforts to undertake its humanitarian role in international organizations, we also hope that Washington will desist from its ploys and games, will learn from past lessons, and will join its efforts to those of the international community to advance the peace process and remove the obstacles, represented by the intransigent Israeli positions, from its path.

New Stage of Violence in 'Uprising' Examined

TA1905101389 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
19 May 89 p 13

[Commentary by Dani Rubinstein: "The 'Finish'"]

[Text] After 1 and ½ years of disturbances in the territories, of commercial paralysis, a complete cessation of studies, and an attempt of dissociation from the Israeli regime, it has transpired that it is impossible to maintain the level of events to which we have grown accustomed. Like a human body that has grown accustomed to medication or other drugs, so it appears that the intifadah [uprising] is trying to break through the limits of routine. The Arabs in the territories are exacerbating their struggle and consequently the Israeli reaction is becoming more severe.

The last several weeks have been characterized by a growing toll of casualties and systematic elimination of people considered to be collaborators. To these we should add the murder of the soldier Avi Sasportas and the disappearance of Ilan Sa'adon. There are also increasing reports on acts of sabotage by Arab workers in Israeli hotels, hospitals, and other working places, and this is enough to bring about angry Israeli reactions. First, there is the reaction of the settlers. They are demanding permission to open fire at Arabs and to avenge attacks on their persons and property, but in fact they are already doing just that without waiting for anybody's permission. The settlers today fire their weapons as much as they want and daily injure Arabs and harm their property. The Israeli authorities do not dare touch the settlers for the simple reason that it cannot defend them. Most of the inquiries into the settlers' acts of retaliation, which include killings and wounding, end without any results, just like most of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] investigations into the circumstances surrounding the death of young Arab demonstrators.

The street mobs are also reacting, whether in Ashdod, Ashqelon, or elsewhere. The mobs have received inspiration from the prime minister, who declared that an Arab who injured an Israeli must not come out of it in one piece, and from Ramat Gan Mayor Tzvi Bar, who divulged to the public the fact (which is of course racist and fallacious) that most of the criminal acts in the Tel Aviv region are committed by Arabs.

It is hard to decide where to draw the line, whether in Ashdod, which has declared itself clean of Arabs, or at the police's proposal to forbid entrance into Israel to Arabs from the territories with security records. In any event, banning Arabs from entering Israel and harming their livelihood only adds fuel to the intifadah. This is actually what the leadership of the uprising wants: complete dissociation from Israel. The more these trends increase and the more Rabin tries to lock up the Arabs of the territories as he did last week in Gaza, the quicker the deterioration will be. There is no real chance of hunger in the territories, because each Arab family has a large stockpile of basic foodstuffs, but the violence will increase and will perhaps find new outlets.

It is true that, even if the Arabs from the territories stop working in Israel, Israel will not be seriously hurt. There will be fewer Arab manual workers, but in their place there will be more Yugoslav, Portuguese, and Polish workers, and perhaps even Jewish workers. Israeli industry and commerce will also be able to overcome the falling demand from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, a trend which had already begun in late 1987. The result is that we will dissociate ourselves more and more from the territories—economically, socially, and psychologically (the political dissociation is already a fact). In the past, Israel wanted to demonstrate that instead of the tolerant coexistence, there would be ongoing violent relations of conquerer and conquered, of rulers and subjects confronting each other on both sides of the Green Line. This is in fact already half the way toward Israeli withdrawal. It is very possible that the recent exacerbation is the opening sign for the upcoming negotiations. Just as in many other wars, here too both sides are trying to improve their positions in the last minute. This is similar to the "finish" of runners in a competition. The problem in our case, however, is that it is not

clear whether we are indeed on the eve of negotiations. Perhaps the whole thing will turn out to be another fruitless political move leading nowhere. In that event we will be left with an uglier and more violent intifadah, and with repression, violence, and racism. This is in principle a situation with which we are already familiar, only several degrees worse.

Rift Between PLO, Hamas Seen Growing

TA1705115989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 May 89 p 2

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Text] The rift between the PLO leadership and representatives of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, who are staying abroad has grown in recent weeks after attempts to bridge the rift ran aground. This was announced by senior Palestinian sources who are close to the PLO leadership.

The sources reported that left-wing organizations in the PLO, especially the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], had torpedoed these conciliation efforts after the failure of attempts by the PFLP to create a joint rejectionist front against the new policy of the PLO leadership. Set to participate in such a front were Hamas and radical organizations outside the PLO, such as the PFLP-General Command, Ahmad Jibril's organization.

It has also been learned that Palestinian left-wing organizations inside and outside the PLO are now organizing for a campaign of pressure on moderate Palestinians in the territories in order to prevent them from expressing their agreement for the political initiative of the Israeli Government.

An editorial of the pan-Arab paper AL-'ARAB issued in London on Monday sharply denounced Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj for having accepted, as it were, the Israeli Government's political plan. This paper, subject to Libya's strong influence, is known for its sympathy for Palestinian left-wing organizations.

Paper Rejects Rabin Threats, Urges PLO Talks

TA1805182989 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 17 May 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Unjustified Threats"]

[Text] Within the framework of the campaign to promote the "Israeli peace plan," Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met with a number of Palestinian figures from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Apparently the main objective in summoning these individuals was to have them listen to threats and promises from someone like Rabin who has held many military and diplomatic posts.

This approach of threats and promises adopted by Rabin, in case the process of elections is not accepted, contains very clear indications about what sort of elections these will be if they are ordained to take place in accordance with this "plan." If these methods are just an inkling, where then is democracy and freedom? And where is the suitable climate for holding these elections to choose representatives who will be able to say whatever they wish without fear of what will happen to them if they were to deviate one bit from the official line? Finally, where is the freedom of the voter to choose whomever he wants to speak in his name?

Rabin and others do not refrain from reminding us of the losses suffered by and the disasters which have been inflicted on us, and which will be inflicted in the future, if we waste this unique, historic opportunity as we wasted others.

We would like to remind Mr Rabin that this opportunity is no more than the glad tidings of a stillbirth after a long labor. Is it logical for the Palestinians to accept a program or a plan that has discounted the mere mention of withdrawal from the occupied territories in accordance with Resolution 242? This is the same resolution that the world has always called on us to recognize so that all roads will be opened to all kinds of solutions.

We would advise Mr Rabin and others not to take the trouble of traveling from one corner of the country to another, and to stop playing the role of preacher and counselor with the aim of finding an (alternative leadership) [parentheses as published]. This for one simple reason: There are clear constants from which no one can deviate! Therefore, no settlement can be achieved except through the international conference. Moreover, any proposal on elections or other subjects cannot be practical unless it falls within the framework of a comprehensive solution.

In short, if Israel is really serious in achieving a just peace, it should address those directly concerned. The address is known and obvious. The PLO, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, possesses the right, and no one inside will accept being its substitute!

Poll: Sharon Best Suited To Deal With Uprising

TA1705113689 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 May 89 p 1

[Text] A poll conducted over the past 2 weeks by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute directed by Dr Rahel Yisra'eli and commissioned by HADASHOT states that Minister Ari'el Sharon "is the Israeli figure best suited to deal with the intifadah [uprising]."

The poll was conducted in face-to-face interviews with 1,206 respondents who constitute a representative sample of the adult Jewish population, excluding residents of kibbutzim and the territories. Some 44 percent of them

chose Sharon, while 20.5 percent said Rabin is the man best suited to deal with the intifadah. Rabin was followed by Refa'el Eytan with 9.6 percent, Shamir with 5.1 percent, Peres with 4.8 percent, and Weizman with 4.7 percent.

Overall, 63 percent of the respondents gave the names of members of the Likud or the right-wing bloc in the Knesset, and only 37 percent mentioned the names of members of the Alignment or the left-wing parties.

Following is a percentage breakdown of the answers of all respondents according to how they voted in the latest Knesset elections:

	Total	Alignment	Likud	Leftwing	Rightwing	Religious	Floating
Sharon	44.4	19.3	62.0	9.1	49.4	63.0	43.2
Rabin	20.5	39.5	10.2	23.9	11.4	11.1	26.1
Eytan	9.6	6.1	10.5	1.1	26.6	6.2	11.0
Shamir	5.1	0.9	10.0	-	-	7.4	2.3
Peres	4.8	15.4	0.5	11.4	-	1.2	2.3
Weizman	4.7	9.2	1.0	17.0	-	-	6.0
Sarid/ Zucker	3.1	2.6	0.5	25.0	-	-	1.1
Kahane	2.2	-	2.9	-	3.8	3.7	2.9
Gur	1.7	4.4	0.5	3.4	-	-	1.7
Ze'evi	1.5	0.9	0.7	-	7.6	1.2	1.8
Others	2.4	1.7	3.2	9.1	1.2	6.2	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Israel Will Not Be First To Use Nuclear Arms

AU1805143089 Rome ANSA in English 1230 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] (ANSA)—Rome May 18—"Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear arms in the Arab-Israeli conflict. A commitment to this effect has already been made to the United States," Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin affirmed in an interview appearing in today's edition of the Rome daily IL MESSAGGERO.

In the interview, Rabin, who commands the harsh repression of the popular "intifadah" [uprising] revolt in the occupied Palestinian territories, defends his policies and replies to the criticism which has been made against him.

In answer to the charge that he issued the order to "break the bones of the Arabs," Rabin denied that he or anyone in his immediate staff at the Defence Ministry had made such an order but said "I cannot deny that there have been cases where bones have been broken."

For the Israeli defence minister, "these cases number in the hundreds, and not thousands" and Israel police were forced to take such action "having no choice when faced with violent demonstrations in which a handful of police had to deal with thousands of civilians."

Regarding the deterioration of the relations between Israel and its Arab population, Rabin affirmed "the Israeli Palestinians have not taken part in episodes of violence, which sets them apart from the Palestinians in the territories."

Rabin, a "hawk" in Shim'on Peres' Labour Party, also rejected calls for a more hardline against the intifadah, in particular those from former Defence Minister Sharon, of Premier Yitzaq Shamir's conservative Likud bloc, affirming that this would not succeed against "a popular revolt."

USSR Grants Entry Visas to Seminar Participants

TA1805201089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Soviet authorities have granted entry visas to a group of Israelis battling to attend a seminar on freedom of emigration and tourism opening today. Permission to attend the seminar was granted after the intervention of Andrey Sakharov and approaches from the West.

2 UNIFIL Soldiers Wounded by SLA Gunfire

TA1805045989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Two Irish soldiers in UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] were wounded by SLA [South Lebanese Army] gunfire. The incident took place yesterday when SLA gunners fired artillery shells on the villages of Al-Hadath and Tibnin, where the 740 strong Irish contingent of UNIFIL has its headquarters.

Conditions at Qezi'ot Detention Center Outlined

TA1705135589

[Editorial report] Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew, on 17 May, on page seven, carries a 1,200-word report by Amir Rosenblit on conditions at Qezi'ot detention center and the improvements said to have been made there. The report begins by providing the data that "since the beginning of the uprising, 11,500 people have gone

through the Qezi'ot detention center (known as Ansar-3). At present, 3,000 detainees are being held there." "Senior officers" who escorted a "recent" reporters' tour at the camp provided details of the prisoners' conditions. They said that the prisoners refused work offered them, and did not even agree to fill out forms in Arabic on the conditions of their detention, claiming that "this would be an act of assisting the authorities, an activity that was banned by the leadership of the uprising."

The prison authorities have decided to implement a series of recommendations made by a "committee headed by prison experts and psychologists. Among other things, the prison authority decided to implement the following recommendations: The number of prisoners in each unit will be lowered from 320 to 220-250. Some food items will be added to the menus. Music and newscasts will be piped in, and games will be distributed. Another decision is that a television set will be provided for each ward. A senior officer said that some 10 million shekels have been spent on construction and infrastructure works to enable the use of the detention facility for a longer period."

The prison is divided into 3 major blocks, each of which has wards separating detainees from Judaea and Samaria from those from the Gaza Strip. "In April, the number of detainees held at the camp reached a record number of 2,955, the largest since the uprising began. The breakdown of detainees in April was as follows: some 1,000 are administrative detainees; some 600 are imprisoned for short terms; and some 1,400 are detained pending the completion of legal proceedings against them. The age of most of the prisoners—1,485—is less than 30. Five hundred and ninety-one detainees are 19 to 20 years old; 557 are 17 to 18; 68 are 16-17, and 46 are men over 41 years of age."

The prison commander, Colonel David Zemah, said "there is no truth in reports claiming that violence and sexual abuse prevail among the detainees." He added that "there are no family visits because of the detainees' policy of not cooperating with the prison authorities or the Civil Administration from which the families must obtain permits to visit them."

Following the series of riots this year, the prison authorities have installed "a system of water sprayers to be used against rioters, and established regulations on the use of tear gas. A series of watch towers have been built," and the housing facilities of the wardens have been improved.

The report adds that criticism is still being leveled at the legal proceedings in the prison, mainly by the Citizens Rights Association. A report presented by Attorney Tamar Peleg for the association says that appeals are conducted "without clear guidelines as to the justices' authority or the legal procedures. There is a situation where the regulations are unclear and uneven." According to Ms Peleg, "holding a prisoner under the claim of 'essential security needs' is insufficient. It calls for an explanation, details, and balance."

General Curfew Reimposed on Gaza Strip

TA1805192089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] A general curfew was reimposed on the Gaza Strip this evening. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that last night the curfew was lifted from the towns of Gaza, Khan Yunus, and Dayr al-Balah, as well as the Jabalyah refugee camp. A general strike was staged today in the towns where the curfew was lifted. It was probably decided to reimpose the curfew in reaction to the residents' compliance with the call to strike today. At the same time, no special disturbances were reported in the Gaza Strip today.

Gaza Residents Claim 2 Hamas Leaders Detained

TA1905112789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Two of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip were detained by the security forces this morning. This was told by Gaza residents to our correspondent Arye Gus. The two are Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is considered to be Hamas' spiritual leader, and Dr Mahmud al-Zuhar. Military sources refuse to react to this report.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Gaza Lawyer Sentenced

TA1805183289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The Gaza military court handed down a prison sentence of 4 years, of which 2 are suspended, to Attorney Fahmi al-Najjar, 40, of Gaza. Al-Najjar was indicted for membership in the unified command of the organizations in Gaza and for not preventing murders or reporting them to the authorities. The prosecutor stated that the squad under the command of Al-Najjar received instructions from the Fatah organization in Amman.

Gaza Youth Reportedly Killed

TA1805201689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The body of an Al-Nusayrat refugee camp youth was brought to a Gaza hospital this evening. According to the people who brought it, the youth was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunshots. The IDF has launched an investigation.

Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that a curfew was in force in the Al-Nusayrat and other Gaza refugee camps today. A general curfew was reimposed on the Gaza Strip this evening.

2 Houses Demolished

TA1905045089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Last night the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] demolished two houses in the village of Surif in the Hebron region. Many wanted people who attacked IDF soldiers were detained in the IDF operation.

Settlers Reportedly Set Fires

TA1905083489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 May 89 p 1, 18

[Report by Joel Greenberg and David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Palestinians in the Nabulus area charge that on four occasions this week settlers set fire to fields in villages northwest of the city, and in one incident prevented firefighters from extinguishing a blaze.

The complaints were transmitted to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

Firemen in Nabulus reported that when they went to extinguish a fire in an olive grove at Bayt Wazan on May 15, they saw soldiers and Israeli civilians who told them to stay away. Fireman Taysir Turki said that when he and his colleagues began putting out the blaze, an Israeli with a beard and kippa walked up to him, pointed a gun, and told him to leave.

The firemen complained about the incident at the Nabulus military government headquarters, and returned to the scene, accompanied by an officer. The civilians were gone, and the firemen put out the blaze.

Residents of 'Anabta reported that on three occasions this week their fields were set on fire. On May 13 and 17, the arsonists got out of a Ford Transit from a neighbouring settlement, according to villagers. Yesterday, a man passing through 'Anabta in an Israeli fuel truck dipped a rag in the fuel and set fire to a field in the western part of the village, according to the reports. [passage omitted]

150 Houses Destroyed, Sealed During 'Uprising'

TA1905113589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 May 89 p A2

[Report by Barukh Me'iri]

[Text] Approximately 150 houses have been demolished or sealed in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip since the outbreak of the intifadah [uprising]. This was reported yesterday by Colonel David Yahav, the outgoing legal advisor for Judaea and Samaria. During a lecture devoted to civil and human rights which was held in a Jerusalem high school, Col Yahav stressed that actually this action as well as deportations "are virtually the only things that have a deterring effect today. This is because the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] deterrence capability is eroding as a result of the intifadah."

Col Yahav revealed the fact that the IDF had been forced to release four master terrorists as it could not bring them before a judge within 96 hours of their arrest. Yahav explained that "Israel promised the Americans it would be very strict on this matter and every administrative detainee would be brought before a judge within 96 hours of his arrest. A hearing regarding the extension of the detainee's remand is held every 3 months."

Col Yahav also addressed the closing of schools in Judaea and Samaria. He said that this action had reduced the scope of rioting in the territories, adding that "we have received appeals from local leaders, including the school principals, who support the continued closure. If they promise to maintain the quiet in the area, however, we will immediately move to resume studies."

Comptroller Annual Report on IDF Activities

TA1805085289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 May 89 p 9

[Report by Roy Isacowitz]

[Excerpts] The comptroller's survey of the IDF ranges from air defences in the north of the country to the handling of classified documents and an update on the army's handling of drug abuse. A recurrent theme of the report is the discrepancy between regulations and their implementation.

The report also indicates instances of competition and rivalry between sections of the IDF. A case in point is the use of training simulators by the Ground Forces Command. Though the simulators have been in use for several years, the report says, the exact responsibilities of the command and the Training Branch of the General Staff have yet to be defined.

As a result, identical work has on occasion been conducted by both bodies and development of simulators has been impeded. The report calls on the General Staff to define the responsibilities clearly.

At least one irregularity uncovered by the comptroller is not only contrary to military regulations but is also illegal: the paid employment of officers on pre-retirement leave. [passage omitted]

In its section on the IDF's Central Depot for Battle Equipment and Spare Parts, the report finds that estimates of future requirements are based on old criteria which may no longer be applicable. In addition, the centre's computer system which does the estimates is unable to handle the full range of items in stock and is not programmed with updated statistics.

The report finds that in certain cases field units lack essential equipment which is readily available in stores. It also mentions instances in which there was a surfeit of equipment in regular (sadir) units but shortages of the identical equipment in reserve units.

Another imbalance between regular and reserve units was found in the manpower allocation of the Air Defence System of the Northern Command. Some regular units, the report says, suffer from severe shortages of technicians in certain fields, while reserve units are as much as 100 percent over-manned.

The most serious manpower deficiencies in the Air Defence System in the North are found in maintenance and transport units, the report says. In November 1987, only 35 percent of the available drivers had profiles of over 65, which is the minimum necessary for those manning forward positions. "This situation," the report states, "is detrimental to routine activities."

While noting that, in general terms, the air defences in the north perform according to regulation, the report calls for urgent retraining of technical personnel, the establishment of a new transport platoon and the provision of all necessary resources by the Air Force.

The comptroller notes that the readiness of the Air Defence System in the North is of particular concern in the light of the November 1987 hang-glider attack in which six soldiers were killed. The comptroller's conclusions about the attack, as well as reports on joint Air Force-Ground Forces activities and developments in armoured warfare, were not made public.

King Husayn on Shamir Plan, Arab Summit, Egypt
JN1805151589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is a sacred objective, demand, and a right that must be enjoyed by the sons of the Palestinian people.

In reply to a question on Jordan's position on the Israeli plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories, his majesty the king said: I have announced several times during my visits to the United States and France that I do not assume the right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people, as the issue is for them to decide. Besides, they have their own leadership; namely, the PLO under brother President Yasir 'Arafat. Furthermore, there is a Palestinian position that was decided at the recent Algiers Palestine National Council session, and which was forcefully and effectively conveyed to the world in Geneva. In addition, the Palestinian are making initiatives. It is my duty and the duty of all of my fraternal Arabs to support these initiatives with all their strength and abilities, and leave those directly concerned to make the moves that they deem appropriate.

His majesty the king, speaking at a brief news conference on the departure of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman today added: As for the Israeli plan as a proposal, the Palestinian side might think that they could have an opinion to voice if a certain formula is embodied within the framework of an integrated process conducive to the desired comprehensive solution and to the realization of the Palestinian people's rights on their national soil. I believe that the Israeli plan as it stands right now is an attempt to waste time and to escape from the continuing and increasing international pressure for reaching a just and honorable solution to this question. I have many fears. However, I believe that the Palestinian leadership is capable of expressing its views.

In reply to a question on the visit to Jordan by His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman, his majesty the king said: I would like to begin by affirming that His Majesty Sultan Qabus is more than a friend to me. He is a brother whom I hold in high esteem and respect. Besides, he is as interested in our problems as we are. The relations between our two countries are excellent. Therefore, it is natural to see visits by us exchanged whenever circumstances allow this to happen. I have visited the Sultanate of Oman several times. I am referring to this fraternal state, which has achieved much under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qabus.

His majesty the king described his talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus as fraternal and successful. They centered on Arab issues, their developments, and the coming Arab summit.

On the participation by the Arab Republic of Egypt in the forthcoming Arab summit, his majesty the king said: I am very pleased that the Arab Republic of Egypt will participate in the summit. We have finally reached the status that we should always have had. Egypt is a part of the Arab world, and the Arab and Egyptian peoples are one people with the same objectives and aspirations. At last we have overcome the effects of a sad episode in the Arab world.

When asked about the economic situation in Jordan, his majesty the king said: Together, we are doing our best to bear the burden. We have to face up to our fate and stand on our own feet and shoulder our responsibilities. I believe that we are following the correct course to deal with any shortcomings that might harm the image of this country, its one people, and its ability to face up to its challenges and difficulties. We will work to tackle all that needs to be tackled and gain the full participation of all Jordanians in shouldering their responsibilities and charting their course now and in the future in the best possible manner.

As for the support of brothers, the situation is encouraging, according to all the contacts we have had, and we are about to hold further meetings with our brothers. I believe that they appreciate this country's support and backing during all the phases through which this nation has passed. They appreciate also all the difficulties and challenges that have faced them and have faced us in Jordan, which is standing on the longest confrontation line and bears a heavy burden.

Sultan Qabus of Oman Departs Amman 18 Apr
JN1805121289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 May 89

[Excerpt] Amman—His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman left Amman at noon today, following a 3-day state visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn. [passage omitted]

Saudi Air Force Chief Received by Crown Prince
JN1805133089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Amman—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon His Royal Highness Prince Khalid ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, commander of the Royal Saudi Air Force, at the conclusion of his 5-day visit to Jordan, during which he visited a number of civil and military institutions.

His royal highness the crown prince and the guest exchanged views on ways to enhance the ties between the two fraternal countries and means of cooperation between their institutions in various spheres.

The meeting was attended by the chief chamberlain, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, and the delegation accompanying the guest.

Departs Amman 18 May

JN1805155389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] His Royal Highness Prince Khalid ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, commander of the Royal Saudi Air Defense Force, and his delegation left Amman this afternoon following a visit of several days to Jordan, during which he met with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayid ibn Shakir and Chief of General Staff General Fathi Abu Talib and visited a number of military installations and cultural and archeological sites.

The guest was seen off by His Royal Highness Faysal ibn al-Husayn; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; a number of senior civil and military officials; the Saudi ambassador in Amman; and the embassy staff.

Decree on Government Supplementary Budget Issued

JN1705112489 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 May 89 p 2

[Text] Amman—A royal decree has been issued approving a temporary law attached to the General Budget Law for the fiscal year 1988.

The attached law stipulates that the ammount of 82,964,720 dinars be added to the government expenditures, which are stated in the existing law. The following is the text of the law:

Article 1: This law is called (law attached to the General Budget Law for the fiscal year 1988) and this law along with Law No 1 of 1988 referred to hereafter as the existing law shall be read as one law and shall be effective when the aforementioned law comes into force.

Article 2: The amount of 82,964,720 dinars shall be added to the government expenditures listed in Article 2 of the existing law, in table No 2, and in tables containing chapters on the expenditures attached to the aforementioned law, in accordance with table No 2 and tables of chapters on the expenditures attached to this law.

Article 3: The amount of 2,300,000 dinars shall be added to the government revenues listed in Article 2 of the existing law, in table No 4, and tables of revenues attached to the aforementioned law in accordance with table No 4 attached to this law.

Article 4: The amount of 80,664,720 dinars shall be added to the deficit stated in Article 3 of the existing law and shall be taken from internal and external loans.

Article 5: The prime minister and the ministers shall implement the provisions of this law.

Table No 2 on total expenditures of the supplementary budget for the fiscal year 1988:

—the Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister's Office: 39,000 dinars;

—the Civil Service Commission: 4,000 dinars;

—the Ministry of Defense: 928,000 dinars;

—the Ministry of Interior and the Public Security: 400,000 dinars;

—the Foreign Ministry: 51,000 dinars;

—the Finance Ministry: 78,838,420 dinars;

—the Ministry of Industry and Trade: 41,000 dinars;

—the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs: 18,000 dinars;

—the Ministry of Education: 2,377,000 dinars;

—the Ministry of Higher Education: 217,000 dinars;

—the Ministry of Labor: 7,500 dinars;

—the Ministry of Information: 4,300 dinars;

—the Radio and Television Corporation: 31,000 dinars; and

—the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Meteorological Department: 8,500 dinars.

Table No 3 on summary of supplementary budget for the fiscal year 1988:

Local revenues:

The amount recovered from expenditures during the past 2 years is 2.3 million dinars, the deficit is 80,664,000 dinars.

The current expenditures:

The civil apparatus is 2,798,000 dinars; the military apparatus is 1,328,000 dinars, other and capital expenditures: 47,643,000 dinars. The amount of 31,195,000 dinars also covers payment of loan installments, internal and external commitments, acquisitions, and loans to companies.

Prime Minister Meets Professional Unions' Leaders

JN1805130089 Amman Domestic Service in Arbic 1100 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Amman—His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir received in his office at the Prime Ministry this morning senior members of the professional unions in the Kingdom. Beginning the meeting, the union representatives congratulated the prime minister on the trust placed in him by his majesty the king. Thanking them for their initiative, the prime minister said this meeting will be the first in a series to exchange views and familiarize ourselves with union issues with an open and understanding attitude.

The union leaders then told the prime minister their views on how to deal with various issues at this critical phase to ensure the positive and effective involvement of the citizens. They reiterated their support for the Hashemite leadership and said that there is unanimity on its historical role in spearheading the development of this homeland.

The prime minister emphasized that the Government has begun to implement the directives of the letter of designation and that it will do all it can to achieve the progress, prosperity and advancement sought by His Majesty King Husayn. The Government, added the prime minister, cannot possibly do everything on its own, but that public support and serious work will make it possible for us as a cohesive family to weather the present difficuluties and then gradually attain self-reliance and intensify national production in various fields. Through free, mutual, and constructive dialogue that highlights the positive aspects and by investigating the underlying causes of the negative aspects, it should be possible to solve the problems and avoid their repetition, the prime minister said.

The doyens said they were satisfied with recent government pronouncements on its determination to improve the bureaucracy and prepare for parliamentary elections. They also expressed satisfaction with the various measures that have been taken in order to achieve liberalization, which has made itself felt in the news media.

The prime minister stressed that the government is endeavoring to make well thought out decisions on all issues, which means not being rushed into hasty decisions, he explained. He added that we will ensure that measures are adopted only after thorough study and deliberation. We will see that our problems are tackled with a team spirit rather than patronizingly. He said that we must avoid hasty decisions that may eventually be proven wrong and then have to be reversed, thus creating confusion and eroding our credibility. The prime minister added: God willing, we will be true to ourselves and the public so that together we can work our way out of our present circumstances.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the senior members of the professional unions thanked the prime minister again for giving them the chance to have this fruitful meeting. They hoped such meetings will create bridges of trust and dialogue between the government and the public. Attending the meeting were Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, and Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din, state minister for cabinet affairs.

Intifadah Donations Exempted From Income Tax

JN1805083689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 May 89 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir has issued a decision exempting donations to the Intifadah [uprising] Support Committee from income tax for 1989.

Columnist on IMF Program, Debt Rescheduling

JN1605125589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 May 89 p 18

["Highlights" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "The IMF Program, Should It Stay or Go"]

[Text] No sovereign state desires to adopt a program to be approved or disapproved by the IMF or any other international institution. However, desires are one thing and necessities another.

Necessity comes when a state exceeds its limit of foreign debts and becomes unable to service its loans, that is, to pay the capital and interest on time. In such a case, the state must reschedule its debts and have a grace period to take a breather, reorganize its affairs, and redress the situation. However, the creditor governments or banks refuse to reach agreement to reschedule their loans. First, because they fear that other creditors would benefit from this postponement, and second, because they cannot guarantee that the national economy, and consequently the ability to pay, would be better in the future. This is where the IMF comes in: It issues a certificate of good economic conduct which says that the national economy is properly administered and in a manner that would improve its ability to pay debts. The rescheduling of debts can be arranged collectively at the Paris Club.

Jordan has reached this stage, and agreed with the IMF on a program for the next 5 years. The IMF representatives will return in 2 months to see for themselves how things are proceeding. If they find that the government abides by its pledges, then the IMF will issue its certificate and call on the creditors to hold talks to reschedule debts, which are expected to take place this summer.

Jordan is unlike Egypt which can negotiate for 2 years with the IMF and can give and take with it until it reaches a program, then later it might not abide by this program. For us, we either abide by this program and succeed in implementing it, or relinquish it entirely. From a practical viewpoint, we can relinquish the program and allocate $1,200 million a year to pay our debts if the Arab states pledge to extend $1 billion financial aid for 5 years. However, if Arab aid were around $500 million a year or less, this means we cannot relinquish the program, because we will continue to be in pressing need to reschedule our debts. The whole issue is that Jordan's economy can become stable, grow, and meet the needs of consumption and production. In other words, readjustment can take place in a healthy atmosphere.

Birri Affirms End to Amal-Hizballah Dispute
NC1905142989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has affirmed that the bloody dispute between the Amal Movement and Hizballah has been resolved and no longer exists. Minister Birri reiterated his commitment to the agreement that had been brokered by fraternal Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He urged the movement and Hizballah to avoid getting involved in the wars of alleys and misguided jihad [hurub al-zawarib wa al-jihad al-mudallil].

During his meeting with the press this afternoon, Minister Birri called anew for the change of the sectarian regime.

Dead Policeman Not Al-Husayni's Bodyguard
NC1805161189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 May 89

[Excerpts] An unidentified person shot and killed Chamber of Deputies' Policeman Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Isa at 0830 today. The policeman was standing near his house in the Caracas area when the shooting incident took place. [passage omitted]

Earlier reports indicated that policeman 'Isa was a bodyguard of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. However, this information is not correct.

'Awn Views Summit, Accuses Syria of Khalid Murder
NC1905075589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Asked about the possibility of his participation in the Casablanca Arab summit conference, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said: This is a matter of principle for me. I must be invited, as it would not be possible to discuss the Lebanese issue logically and objectively without Lebanon's presence. Syria always attends. It is not content to defend itself, but accuses others. The absentee is always the guilty one.

In an interview with France international radio, 'Awn added that he may express reservations regarding the summit resolutions if he is not invited, because they will talk about the Lebanese people's sovereignty and it is impossible to discuss Lebanon's fate in his absence.

Asked what he expects of the Arab League, Gen 'Awn said: I expect the states which signed the League charter to respect their signatures. That is all. There are articles in the charter which prohibit the occupation of one state by another or one state's interference in another's affairs in order to change the latter's political system. This is what I expect of the Arab states. He added: I do not want to say that I am not optimistic. I have strong reservations regarding the results which will emerge from the summit.

Gen 'Awn accused Syria of assassinating Mufti Hasan Khalid because it will benefit from the assassination, as the late Mufti Khalid was opposed to Syria and rejected several invitations to visit Damascus. He also refused to endorse written statements which it sent to him.

Arab League Envoy Meets 'Awn, Makes Statement
NC1805120089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 May 89

[Statement by Arab League envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi following his meeting with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn on 18 May in B'abda—recorded]

[Excerpts] I am very thankful to his excellency the general for receiving me once again and for our talks. [passage omitted]

Regarding our mission, since a week ago—since last Thursday—we have consolidated this partial cease-fire. I am happy about that, and I think that all Lebanese are pleased that this partial cease-fire is continuing. We are still working to implement all the articles of the Arab League resolution so we can move on to another level, which is opening the political file of the Lebanese problem. This requires lifting blockades which are still in effect.

Once again I affirm that since the start of my contacts, since I began this mission with my friend and colleague Ambassador al-Jasim, I still maintain that I have not heard anything which, in my opinion, justifies firing a single bullet. I stress that the guns must fall completely silent, and dialogue must start. There are many problems, doubts, and demands. Some of these are contradictory, but all of these can be the subject of talks and negotiations among brothers.

A series of meetings will take place in the coming days. These will begin with a meeting of the six-man committee, then a meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, and finally, an Arab summit. I hope that these meetings will deal with the Lebanese problem with the responsibility and seriousness demanded by the situation in Lebanon. I also hope that the interest shown by the Arabs in adopting the decision to call for a cease-fire will be reaffirmed at the highest level in their meeting in Casablanca and that important, unified decisions will be made which will help solve all Lebanese problems. [passage omitted]

[Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 1030 GMT on 18 May adds that the meeting Ibrahimi held with General Michel 'Awn was in B'abda and that "Ibrahimi is scheduled to have met with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss now to brief him on the results of his meeting with General 'Awn."]

Departs for Damascus

NC1905070089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 May 89

[Excerpt] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, continued his consultations in Beirut before he left for Damascus yesterday afternoon. He met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, and General Michel 'Awn. He also visited the Maronite patriarchate and the mufti's office to offer condolences on the assassination of Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid. [passage omitted]

Shari'a Council Appoints Qabbani Acting Mufti

NC1805122289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 May 89

[Excerpt] Three days after the martyrdom of Mufti Hasan Khalid, it has been decided to designate Fatwa secretary, Shaykh Dr Muhammad Rashid Qabbani, acting mufti of the republic. This measure was taken after a meeting of the Higher Islamic Shari'a Council under Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The meeting began at 1100 and ended at 1300 today. [passage omitted]

British, U.S. Nationals Advised To Leave

NC1905142189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The British and U.S. Embassies in Beirut have advised their citizens to leave Lebanon because of the dangerous security situation in Lebanon.

Army Command on Closure of Beirut Crossing

NC1805144189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] A military source in the Army Command [of Major General Sami al-Khatib] in Beirut has stated that the Museum-Al-Barbir crossing was closed today from the Al-Barbir side preventing any vehicles from crossing over to the other side. Only pedestrians are permitted to cross without advance permits.

Senegalese Mediator Interviewed on Hostage Issue

PM1805151489 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17-23 May 89 pp 16-21

[Interview with the head of the Senegalese Islamic Foundation, Shaykh 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zayn, "a Senegalese figure of Lebanese origin who mediated between the organizations which held the French hostages and the French Government," by Salih Qallab in Dakar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Qallab] We have learned that you mediated for the release of the French hostages about a year ago. Are you willing to embark on a new mediation for the release of the American and British hostages held in Lebanon, especially Terry Waite, who is a man of religion?

[Al-Zayn] First, let me make one significant point, which is that the endeavor to release the French hostages was made on the official instructions of the president of Senegal. I want to emphasize that I acted on two grounds: the Senegalese president's instructions and humanitarian motives. I wish to stress that there was no other political or nonpolitical motive and that I would not have possibly accepted the assignment had it not come from President Abdou Diouf. I do not agree to any personal initiative behind the Senegalese president's back. Apart from that, I am willing to consider any request I receive in this connection.

[Qallab] Does this mean that you are willing to mediate again if asked to do so by Britain and the United States through Abdou Diouf?

[Al-Zayn] Of course, without any hesitation.

[Qallab] Are all the hostages still alive?

[Al-Zayn] Yes, of course. I can confirm that.

[Qallab] You can confirm that all the British hostages, including Terry Waite, are still alive?

[Al-Zayn] Yes, they are all alive. We have no information to the contrary or any information that any of them is not alive. I confirm that all the hostages without exception, whether British or American, are alive. The West German, as you know, has already been released.

[Qallab] Do you know the number of the hostages?

[Al-Zayn] Yes, three are British, including Terry Waite, and nine American.

[Qallab] On what basis would you proceed in your mediation for their release? Your relations with the Iranians, the Syrians, or your personal friendship and old association with certain figures?

[Al-Zayn] There is a Lebanese proverb which says "we want to eat the grapes but we do not want to kill the watchman." What matters is the release of the hostages. There is no point in talking now about how to do it and what channels we would use to achieve it. We succeeded in releasing the French hostages by relying on certain individuals and relationships. If entrusted again with such a task, on the basis I have already mentioned, I would contact the same people, whether they are Lebanese or not. In any new mediaton I would go to these people and rely on their knowledge and experience.

[Qallab] Those holding the hostages are known to have political and nonpolitical conditions. To the best of your knowledge, do these conditions still stand?

[Al-Zayn] These conditions still stand, but there is give and take in some cases. There are bound to be some changes: Some conditions are bound to be eased, some

new conditions may be added, and some old conditions may be dropped. I have been out of touch for about a year and so I do not know if there are any new terms. I believe that the first step would have to be my assignment. Then the terms file would be opened, but it is impossible to say anything in advance or to know anything before the designation and the start of the mediation.

[Qallab] When you talk about mediation, are you referring to the British or the Westerners in general, including the Americans?

[Al-Zayn] There is no difference. I would immediately start the mediation as soon as I receive the assignment, regardless of the nationality of the hostages involved.

[Qallab] You know that the latest hostage was the American officer who was kidnapped in southern Lebanon while working for the United Nations. Is that officer also still alive like the rest of the Western hostages?

[Al-Zayn] We have no information that he has been killed. I have no information about his being killed. All I know is that they arrested him and managed to kidnap him.

[Qallab] Some people claim that the hostages are held by Hizballah. Is that true?

[Al-Zayn] I cannot say where the hostages are. All I can say at this point is that they are not necessarily all held by one side or that they are not necessarily held by Hizballah, which is now a known party and anyone could claim anything about it. You should not be surprised if the hostages are held by a side or a person that nobody ever heard of before.

[Qallab] In that context, could they be outside Lebanon?

[Al-Zayn] I will not answer that question. Spare me that. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] The issue of the hostages has become an international crisis. May we ask about the authority which allows Shaykh 'Abd al-Mun'im to embark on such a mediation? Is it your position with those holding the hostages or is it a matter of old companionship, or political or religious relationship?

[Al-Zayn] First, let me assure you that there is no political relationship because basically I am not a political person. I know some individuals who have been linked to the hostage issue for a long time. I said before that I depend on certain individuals who had worked with me to ensure the release of hostages. They perhaps respect me morally, but the main factor which helped the release was fulfillment of the conditions, because without that nothing can be achieved, not even if I went personally to the kidnappers and asked them to take me instead of the hostages. They would not listen and the hostages would not be released. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] After your success in bringing about the release of the French hostages, did the Americans or the British contact you regarding their hostages?

[Al-Zayn] I have one permanent and fixed precondition regarding all conctacts made with me for the release of hostages, which is that I do not want direct contact, especially at the beginning. I ask any person or quarters wishing me to get involved in this matter to contact President Abdou Diouf, after which I would be willing to contact the parties concerned, with whom negotiations would then take place, as in the case of the French.

[Qallab] Have the Americans or the British tried to contact President Abdou Diouf?

[Al-Zayn (after some hesitation)] I do not know.

[Qallab] If the Anglican Church wished to send a man of religion to meet with you regarding mediation for the release of its man held in Lebanon, would you be prepared to meet with him?

[Al-Zayn] I am willing to meet with and talk to anyone, but my mediation assignment must come through President Abdou Diouf.

[Qallab] Does that mean that you are not opposed to direct contacts?

[Al-Zayn] No, there is no problem as far as contacts and talking are concerned.

[Qallab] Regarding Terry Waite, some charges have been made against him, such as the charge that he spied for the United States. That has in turn given rise to some fear for his life. Are you sure he is still alive?

[Al-Zayn] I have not seen him, but all the information I have confirms that he is still alive.

[Qallab] Was he brought to trial over the charges made against him?

[Al-Zayn] I do not know, but that matter ended then. If there was an intention to kill him, it would have been carried out as soon as the charges were made against him.

[Qallab] Do you not believe that the release of the American and British hostages is a more difficult process than the release of the French hostages?

[Al-Zayn] There is a difficulty regarding these hostages, as there was some difficulty with the French hostages, but generally speaking these difficulties can be surmounted.

[Qallab] Does that mean that you are hopeful that you would succeed again?

[Al-Zayn] Yes, I am very hopeful.

[Qallab] Do you have any grounds for wanting to embark on such a difficult mission?

[Al-Zayn] Yes, and there would be more hope if I sensed that all sides are willing to come to some understanding. Sometimes the process falters and grinds to a halt if one side behaves in a certain way, simple as that may be. If any party involved in the process wished to abort it, it could do so. I want to stress that negotiations as such are easy if there is willingness to implement the agreed conditions.

[Qallab] A year ago, when negotiations were held over the French hostages, the Iranians were in a better position than they are now, particularly as we hear of conflicting trends. Would that mean longer and more difficult negotiations regarding the American and British hostages?

[Al-Zayn] I have no clear answer to that question. What I want to say, however, is that the Iranians may have benefited from the case of the hostages without being directly involved.

[Qallab] But the Iranians were present in all the negotiations.

[Al-Zayn] I said they may have benefited through some of their Lebanese allies.

[Qallab] Based on your own experience, which would you say is the more difficult: The case of the British hostages or the case of the American hostages?

[Al-Zayn] As I have said, you might find that the difficult aspects of one case are different from the difficult aspects of the other but, generally speaking, nothing is impossible and all problems can be resolved if the parties concerned show goodwill.

6 Killed, 10 Wounded in Attack on Sidon

NC1905062389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] In the south, observers have pondered the act of aggression which was committed by agent Lahd's militia against the city of Sidon yesterday, in which six people were martyred and 10 others wounded. The observers expressed their fear that this act of aggression will lead to torpedoing the truce which the Arab League has achieved and seeks to prolong.

Nationalist leaders have accused General 'Awn of having asked agent Lahd to inflame the security situation in the south because he is unable to inflame the situation in Beirut as a result of the Arab and international pressures being exerted on him. These leaders expressed surprise that agent Lahd kills people because, as he claimed, flour is lacking. They said that enough flour for 9 days was handed over to the flour contractor in Jazzin and the occupied strip a few days ago.

The leaders ruled out that flour was the reason for the attack on Sidon yesterday.

Jubayl Coast Shelled; Aircraft Overfly Beirut

NC1905051389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The Kasrawan and Jubayl coasts have been and remain the target of Syrian long-range artillery fire since last night and up until now. The latest salvo of shells was at 0715 today. The shelling is continuing intermittently.

Meanwhile, security sources have reported that unidentified military aircraft flew over north Beirut at dawn today.

Pakistani Assembly Speaker Meets With Al-Asad
JN1805122089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] At 1345 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Malik Mairaj Khalid, Pakistani National Assembly speaker, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah.

Confers With Khaddam
JN1805104989 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Damascus, 18 May (SANA)—At 1000 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Malik Mairaj Khalid, Pakistani National assembly speaker, and the delegation accompanying him. Shakir Sa'id, head of the Arab and External Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly, attended.

During the meeting, the conversation revolved around bilateral issues and the situation in the region.

North Yemen President Telephones Al-Asad
JN1705202989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 May

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call this evening from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic. Their conversation concerned general Arab issues.

Arab League's Lakhdar Ibrahimi Arrives 16 May
JN1605161489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant Arab League secretary general, arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the two directors of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the commissioner general of the office for the Arab boycott of Israel in Damascus.

Palestine Broadcast Discusses Egypt, Iraq
JN1805104689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 May 89

[Palestine Broadcast: From the "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] Despite all problems in the Arab situation, our people's intifadah [uprising] inside the occupied homeland proves daily that, with its brilliant revolutionary excellence, it is capable of creating fundamental changes in this situation, which may ultimately lead to the restoration of Arab solidarity, within certain limits, and render the Arabs more capable of facing their Zionist enemy.

Undoubtedly, the issue that preoccupies the minds of the heroic masses inside the homeland is that the day will come when their struggle is crowned by rebuilding a broad, strong front of Arab confrontation, which will give the intifadah extra strength and ability to continue and yield results. This front will also carry out the promise to unite Arabs on a pan-Arab course, so that the smell of rotten isolationist and regionalist thinking, in all its forms, will disappear from the Arab world; and the effects of this thinking on the pan-Arab level, and the catastrophes it has brought, will vanish forever.

In this context, our steadfast masses inside the homeland await the day when the unity is restored by joining Damascus with Cairo, where the real center of Arab power is.

They also await the day when Baghdad emerges from its contemporary tragedy. Our Palestinian Arab people, who went through the experience of "there are no orders," [referring to the failure of Iraqi Army units to come to the assistance of Palestinian Arabs during the 1948 war with Israel] have not, so far, been able to witness any positive change in the stand on the Palestine question, except at certain periods. The Iraqi regime's bloody policies against Iran at times, against the people of Iraq at times, and against the people of Lebanon at other times, have constituted a real catastrophe.

Shamir Plan Termed 'Old Rotten Commodity'
JN1905084389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 May 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Shamir's conspiracy and Israel's campaign to sell it are the subject of today's AL-THAWRAH's editorial.

The newspaper links the timing of the Israeli diplomatic activity—which seeks to beautify and deceive the world with Shamir's plan—with the threats made by the Zionist terrorists to escalate oppression if the Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip do not accept their initiative.

The newspaper says the timing is a new indication of the futility of the new initiative, which, in substance, is based on part two of the Camp David accords which is related to Palestinian self-autonomy.

AL-THAWRAH continues: The masses of the steadfast intifadah [uprising] have expressed their absolute rejection of Shamir's plan and all maneuvers related to it. The intifadah, deriving strength from revolutionary mass action, originally started in response to liquidatory and capitulationist plans and will not end by accepting schemes which, in substance, are based on a plan that was proposed before the intifadah started and that now only aims to extinguish its fire and escape its results.

The paper adds: No matter how hard the enemy tries to beautify Shamir's plan, it will fail to sell an old rotten commodity. No one will deal with this commodity after the intifadah has highlighted the facts of the conflict and its fundamental cause, especially since Shamir's plan is playing the same old tune of partial solutions and a step-by-step method. The objectives of this method have been exposed and rejected. Furthermore, it does not correspond to the new facts of the conflict in the region.

NPF Reviews Lebanese Politics, Economy

JN1105183689 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting at 1800 today under the chairmanship of Comrade Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president of the Republic and deputy chairman of the NPF.

The Arab and global political situation was reviewed during the meeting. An assessment of the situation stressed the soundness of the principled policy being followed by Syria under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. This policy is based on an effective Arab commitment to counter plots against the Arab nation and on confronting the imperialist and Zionist hegemonistic schemes.

The NPF Central Command also reviewed the latest developments in Lebanon. It characterized these developments as an attempt to distract Syria's attention from the liquidationist and capitulationist schemes that are being imposed on the Arabs. It also characterized them as a new attempt to partition Lebanon and create entities that do not represent the Lebanese people's will, but the sick mentality of the Zionized isolationist clique which seeks to consecrate the abnormal situation, and which benefits only the enemies of Lebanon and the Arab nation.

The Central Command expressed highly its appreciation for Syria's pan-Arab role in Lebanon, a role which implements the desire to maintain the unity of Lebanon—land and territory, to achieve justice and equality among its sons, and carry out the political reforms that guarantee and preserve this unity. The NPF Central Command paid tribute to struggler President Hafiz al-Asad's historic leadership, which is defending the Arab nation's causes and supreme national interests.

The Central Command also discussed the overall economic situation in the country. It was briefed on measures taken by the government to deal with the economic difficulties and improve living standards.

Aghanistan

U.S. Pakistan Envoy Said Inciting Mujahidin

LD1905060889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 19 May 89

["U.S. Ambassador Create Differences Among Mujahidins"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, May 18, BAKHTAR—[Words indistinct] existing among the mujahidins are emanated from direct and indirect interferences of Robert Oakley, ambassador of the United States of America in Islamabad, Radio BBC quoted Hashemi Lolandi [name as received], speaker of the so-called seven alliance stationed in Peshawar on Tuesday night.

Wakil Addresses Nonaligned Conference

LD1805182389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, who is attending the nonaligned foreign ministers session in Harare, delivered a comprehensive speech this afternoon at the conference. The foreign minister shed light on the main issues facing the movement and spoke about the great dangers to peace and security in the region and the world. To prevent aggression and interference against the Republic of Afghanistan, our foreign minister called for the further active particpation of the Nonaligned Movement in the political and peaceful solution to the issues around Afghanistan.

The foreign minister presented a number of constructive proposals for resolving the issues around Afghanistan and requested that delegations made up of the well-known personalities of the movement be sent to Afghanistan to mediate between Afghanistan and Pakistan and try to normalize relations between the two countries in light of the Geneva accords. The Nonaligned Movement was also requested to persuade Pakistan to end interference and aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan and force that country to encourage the opposition to participate in talks and negotiations rather than encouraging them to continue war.

'Abdul Wakil requested that the movement ask Pakistan to observe the Geneva accords, particularly the document on noninterference and aggression, and force that country to observe its commitments with regard to Document 2 of the Geneva accords to prepare the ground for the return of emigrants to the country. The movement was also requested to provide assistance to the United Nations and His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, to fulfill his mission aimed at ensuring peace, ending war and interference, and forming a broad-based government through dialogue.

The speech and proposals of the Afghan foreign minister were welcomed by the participants. According to another report, the foreign minister had separate meetings with the foreign ministers of Zimbabwe, Cuba, Nicaragua, Algeria, and Palestine and exchanged views on topics of mutual interest.

Moscow City Delegation Arrives on Visit

LD1805204189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Vladimir Ivanovich, deputy to the secretary of Moscow City Party Committee [name and title as received], head of a high-ranking delegation from the Moscow City Party Committee, arrived this morning in Kabul for a friendly visit at the invitation of Kabul City Party Committee.

Mir Saheb Karwal, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee; Daud Razmyar, secretary of Kabul City Party Committee; Muhammad Hakim, Kabul mayor; a number of the members of Kabul City Party Committee and charge d'affaires of the USSR Embassy in Kabul welcomed the delegation at Kabul International Airport.

Loya Jirgah Elections Held 17 May

LD1805124389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Based on a decree of the president of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibullah, and in accordance with Article 68 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, the Afghan Loya Jirgah will be held in Kabul in the near future.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] reports that, in line with Article 29, Chapter 6 of the Law of Elections of the Afghan Loya Jirgah, elections were held today [17 May] throughout the country under the supervision of the election commissions of the Loya Jirgah. Our compatriots, who completed the conditions for voting, took part in the election to elect their trusted delegates at this historical and important event in the country. They elected their trusted representatives to the Loya Jirgah of the Republic of Afghanistan, the highest manifestation of the will of the Afghan people.

The BIA correspondents from the capital and the provinces report that elections were held in the provincial centers and in equivalent administrative units in accordance with Article 4, Chapter 2 of the Law of Elections, on the basis of the right to vote in open elections for the people's representatives councils.

According to another report, elections to the Loya Jirgah of the delegates of Kabul city were held today. The delegates from Kabul were elected to the Loya Jirgah in a free and democratic atmosphere.

Further on Election

PM1805143489 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 18 May 89 p 12

[Robert Fox dispatch: "Kabul Assembly in Muddle As Party Tries To Please All Sides"—names as published]

[Text] Kabul—The big government office in central Kabul is a building distinguished by its anonymity. It has the bare functionalism of a barracks.

Yesterday, it was the scene of a vital part of the election process for the Grand Assembly, the Loya Jirgah, due at the weekend, which might well decide the fate of the government and party in Kabul, and of President Najibullah himself.

In a large hall with darkened windows, about 350 members of the electoral college had been summoned by Governor Tarumi of Kabul to select 10 candidates for the province and the capital.

The proceedings revealed the current confusion in the policy and outlook of the ruling People's Democratic Party.

Once ostensibly Marxist-Leninist on the Moscow line, under Dr Najibullah the party is now claiming to be Islamic nationalist and for multi-party democracy.

From the audience of electors, many in tribal costume, came more than a whiff of a suspicion that perhaps the party was now trying to be all things to all men.

The ambiguity is most marked in the policy on the war itself. Speakers seemed to hesitate between prosecuting war at all costs, or pursuing peace at any price.

After verses from the Koran, Mr Tarumi, 40, said: "The Koran enjoins us to call a council. It is our duty to safeguard the independence of the country. That is why a jirgah has to be called."

With these words, he deftly delivered the new slogan of the party for both internal and external consumption—wrapping the regime in the green flag of an Islamic nation.

The duty of Afghans, he insisted, was to resist all outside interference from the "enemies of our nation".

The governor said it had been hard to organise representation from the country as many villages were almost abandoned.

Other speakers mixed religion with a dose of the ruling party's new nationalism.

A mullah, Mawlawi Kalakhani Gulbari, warned the audience to beware of following the Iranian example. He said: "It was the people who brought back Khomeyni in Iran and thus defeated themselves, eventually bringing one million dead in the war with Iraq.

"Let us beware, here in Afghanistan, of the men who walk with the two daggers stuffed in the left and the right pocket—one for stabbing the government; the other for the Mujahidin.

"Those who claim to fight for religion should remember the first duty of Islam is to unite and not to make war. What we really want is a freely-elected government, not one perpetually subordinated to the needs of war."

Despite the plea, the voting itself was done in what was later described as "the traditional Afghan way for a Jirgah". The process resembled a carpet auction.

As candidates presented themselves, blue voting tickets were waved in the air. On each ticket was the name, ethnic origin, village and identity number of the elector.

Only one seat was contested by two candidates, and that took three shows of hands to resolve. Otherwise, votes for and against were demanded for each candidate.

One independent soul, who dared to flourish his card against a party favourite, was given a verbal dressing down by one of the tellers. His hand was hauled down.

The one woman candidate went through by acclaim, and the proceedings closed with Governor Tarumi thanking delegates 'for participating in electing freely and democratically their candidates".

The understanding is that the assembly could enhance the President's position if it gives a new impetus to his plans for peace. But according to the voices of the bazaar, if he fails to come up with anything new, his Jirgah could herald his exit.

Mujahidin Preparing for Major Attack on Kabul

BK1805160589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are making preparations to launch a major attack on the capital, Kabul. According to the Sada-i Inqilab-i Islam [the Voice of the Islamic Revolution], the mujahidin are gathering around Kabul from various fronts.

Meanwhile, the siege of Jalalabad continues, with mujahidin controlling the strategic area from (Daroghai) to (Khoshkgombad) on the northern bank of the Kabul River, where Kabul regime forces are taking strict defensive measures.

In the northern province of Baghlan, the mujahidin captured five military outposts in the vicinity of the provincial headquarters, killed 11 Kabul regime soldiers, and captured several other soldiers along with their arms.

Fierce fighting is also reported to be continuing on other battlefronts in Paktia and Qandahar Provinces.

Mujahidin Missiles Cause Destruction in Kabul

BK1905103189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, large-scale destruction has been caused in Kabul as a result of the mujahidin's missile attacks on the Afghan capital. The airport installations, presidential palace, and the Qargah Garrison were reportedly hit in this attack. The mujahidin have also besieged the Feyzabad Airport, thereby disrupting all flight operations.

237 'Extremists' Killed in Nangarhar Province

LD1805180189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] As a result of shattering blows by the Armed Forces in retaliation for the shelling by heavy weapons of the Pakistani-linked extremists, yesterday heavy loss of life was inflicted on the joint enemy force in Nangarhar Province. An authorized source of the Armed Forces told BAKHTAR that despite the stubborn resistance by the Pakistani-linked extremists yesterday, units and companies of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province also carried out two search and destroy operations, during which the enemy was pushed back and a wide area was cleared of them.

During the operations, 20 surface-to-surface missiles were seized from the extremists and a number of their strongholds were destroyed. The source adds that the joint enemy force, which is scared because of its recent defeat, with the support of artillery fire from the Pakistani 11th and 18th Divisions, fired heavy weapons at Jalalabad city and its airport, which resulted in six killed and nine wounded. Some 15 homes and two public service establishments were destroyed.

The reports states that the heroic Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province in retaliatory strikes have dealt heavy blows to the armed extremists. As a result of the Armed Forces' artillery shelling and Air Force strikes, 237 extremists were killed and 108 were wounded. A large number of the Saudi Wahhabi armed mercenaries and Punjabi militia have been killed or wounded. Three enemy stores, two recoilless guns, eight trucks carrying enemy weapons and ammunition, one BM-1 unit, 12 rocket launchers, and assorted light weapons have been destroyed.

According to another report, Pakistani-linked extremists groups fired heavy weapons yesterday in some regions of Qandahar and Paktia Provinces. Three children and two women were wounded in Qandahar, and in Paktia 4 people, as well as one security officer, were wounded. Also as a result of retaliatory actions by the armed forces, 24 extremists were killed in the Khowst area. Another two ringleaders belonging to the extremist group of Gulbuddin were killed in Parvan Province. The ringleaders in Parvan were Sufi Muhammad Gul and Sufi Muhammad Alam.

The Armed Forces source adds that the situation as a whole is calm in the country's other provinces and regions. Highways are open to traffic.

Military Situation in Jalalabad, Khowst Noted

LD1805124989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 17, BAKHTAR—Attacks of extremists from south-western direction of Jalalabad City were repulsed by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan during the past 24 hours, an authorised military source said.

The residential areas and the airport of Jalalabad came under the heavy attacks of the extremists supported by the heavy shellings of the enemy and the 11th and 18th Pakistani Divisions and the Saudi Wahhabis. Eight civilians were injured and 3 houses demolished. Units of the Armed Forces responded. Twenty five extremists were killed and 34 other wounded. Large quantity of arms and ammunition of the extremists destroyed.

Attacks of the extremists on the Khowst Major District halted. More than 722 members of the enemy joint forces were killed and scores of them wounded.

According to the reports from the Qandahar, Helmand and Konduz Provinces during the mopping up operations of the armed forces in the suburbs of the said provinces 34 extremists were killed 38 wounded and 7 others captured.

It must be mentioned here that 5,000 armed extremists voluntarily joined Armed Forces of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] during that period. All main roads leading to the capital remained open to the normal traffic flow.

Situations in the rest provinces of the RA were reported as totally normal.

Report on Military Situation Around Country

LD1905061589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 18, BAKHTAR—The opposition assisted by the Pakistani militia and armed Wahhabi merceneries attacked residential areas of Jalalabad, its airport and Khowst Major Districts during the past 24 hours. Four civilians were killed and 8 others wounded. Seven houses were also demolished as a result of the attacks, an authorised military source said.

The armed detachments of the Armed Forces struck the enemy. Thirty extremists were killed and 17 others wounded.

Larged quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy and several of their fortified positions demolished.

The garrison of the Khowst Major District attacked positions of the enemy in the outskirts of Khowst and killed 151 enemies, mainly Saudi Wahhabis and Pakistani militia, and wounded 45 others. Their armaments destroyed. [sentence as received]

The mopping up operations of the Armed Forces in the Konduz and Farah Provinces resulted to the killing of 18 extremists.

According to another report General 'Abdul Baqi, head of the Defence Department and national security of the Presidency of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan], governor and secretary of the provincial committee of Konduz Province visited enemy positions which fell at the head of the Armed Forces recently.

He appreciated the vigilence and combat capability of detachments of the Armed Forces of the province.

Situation in other provinces of the RA were reported as normal and supply routes remained open to the traffic.

'Extremist' Groups Clash in Parwan Province

LD1805202789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Heavy clashes took place recently in Parwan Province between the Rabbani and Gulbuddin extremist groups. BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of bloody clashes between these groups in Bagram District, five people were killed, one was wounded and two others were captured by the hostile groups.

Heavy clashes also took place among these groups in Khowja Siaran region, Parwan Province. As a result, four members of the Gulbuddin extremist group including Mangal, a ringleader, were killed.

Explosives, Weapons Captured in Sarowbi

LD1805164289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Organs of the Ministry of State Security today seized a quantity of explosives, surface-to-surface missiles and assorted ammunition. BAKHTAR's military section reports that Pakistani-linked individuals belonging to extremist groups, had placed four kgs [word indistinct] explosive substance, 4 surface-to-surface missiles, two antivehicle mines, and eight rocket launcher shells at villages in Sarowbi District, and 20 surface-to-surface missiles, three (Sure)-20 missiles, bottle and gas hand grenades, U.S. magnetic mines, [words indistinct] and a quantity of explosive substance placed inside radio sets—which were placed in villages of the Charhar Asiab District, in order to be used in organizing explosions in populated areas. This foul plan and conspiracy by the criminal extremists was discovered and foiled with all-around support of the peace-loving people of the villages.

Bangladesh

President Ershad Welcomes Sino-Soviet Summit

BK1805162589 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] President Ershad has welcomed the Sino-Soviet summit as a step toward reduction of international tension and a new beginning in Sino-Soviet relations.

In separate messages to President Yang Shangkun of China and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, President Ershad conveyed his heartiest felicitations to them on the just-concluded successful summit in Beijing. While welcoming the summit, he said it will have beneficial impact in the region and elsewhere in the world. The president said Bangladesh greatly appreciates the pragmatic statesmanship and (?abiding) resolve for peace shown during the summit by the two world leaders.

India

Janata Dal Urges Troop Withdrawal From Sri Lanka

BK1905111389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1043 GMT 19 May 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, May 18 (AFP)—A major opposition party has called for an immediate withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka, saying India's position there had become completely untenable.

The Janata Dal (People's Party), in a statement here Thursday, termed "foolish" India's military intervention in Sri Lanka following a July 1987 peace accord between the two countries that sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

"Our position in Sri Lanka has become so untenable that the sooner we pull out of that country the better it will be for all concerned," party General Secretary Yashwant Sinha said.

The statement said New Delhi appeared to have been "totally isolated" in Sri Lanka, with Colombo and the dominant Tamil separatists Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) engaged in direct talks that sidelined India.

New Delhi was was being "attacked by both parties to the dispute in which we had intervened foolishly," the statement said.

The LTTE, which has repudiated the accord and is waging a guerrilla war against an estimated 45,000 Indian troops in the island's north and east, began peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government last month.

Mr. Sinha, a civil servant-turned-politician, also said that despite "the strenuous efforts" of the Indian Government, Colombo had not accepted the 1987 accord as the framework for its talks with the LTTE.

He said the peace pact, which has been accepted by five other major Tamil guerrilla groups, was meant to safeguard the interests of Sri Lankan Tamils who are in a minority in the island but in a majority across the northeast.

Instead, he added, the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) ended up fighting Sri Lankan Tamils, "involving considerable loss of precious human lives on both sides."

Some 870 Indian soldiers and more than 2,000 suspected LTTE milita have died in fighting since the Indian troops launched an offensive october 1987 to disarm the most powerful group.

The Dal, which was formed last year by the merger of three opposite parties, also blamed Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who signed the peace pact with former Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene, for landing India "in a mess" in the neighbouring island nation. [passage omitted]

Delhi Radio Examines Relations With Nepal
BK1805072389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The Nepalese prime minister, Mr Shrestha, has said that Nepal wants to maintain best of relations with both India and China. He told the official Nepalese news agency, RSS, that common sense dictates such an approach. Commenting on what exactly Nepal wanted, Mr Shrestha said his country does not believe in friendship with one at the expense of the other nor does it believe in playing one against the other.

Meanwhile, the king of Nepal has summoned the annual session of the Rashtriya Panchayat [Parliament] on the 15th of next month. All India Radio Kathmandu correspondent Sushil Chopra reports that the session is expected to be lively as members will discuss current Indo-Nepal relations. Several members of the Panchayat, including a number of former ministers, have already been critical in public of the Nepalese government stand on the issue. Representatives from the Terai Region have been particularly critical in this regard. Our correspondent adds that under the Nepalese Constitution, the National Assembly cannot discuss anything against the partyless panchayat system. It is also prohibited to debate the conduct of the king and the queen and members of the royal family.

Nepal's 'Internationalizing' of Issues Protested
BK1905033089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] India has strongly protested to Nepal against raising of bilateral matters in the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau meeting now going on in the Zimbabwe capital, Harare. The foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, rejected as baseless the allegations made by the Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Upadhyaya, against India in his speech at the plenary session of the meeting. During his meeting with Mr Upadhyaya, Mr Singh said that if Nepal is serious about a dialogue with India it should stop trying to internationalize bilateral issues in multilateral fora. Mr Singh said India cannot be blamed for hardships brought upon the people of Nepal by the act of omissions and commissions by the Nepalese Government itself. He informed the Nepalese minister that in accordance with its policy of not bringing bilateral issues to multilateral fora, India does not propose to exercise its right of replying at the bureau meeting.

Gandhi on Separatism, Sino-Soviet Summit
BK1805093089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The prime minister has appealed to the people to join hands with the government in wiping out communal and separatist forces, which break the unity and integrity of the country. Addressing a public meeting at Araria in Purnea District, Mr Rajiv Gandhi charged some opposition parties of colluding with such forces. He said the government should stand unitedly to protect the secular setup of the country. The prime minister pointed out that there are some progressive and leftist parties who criticize these forces. But they are not brave enough to join hands with the Congress-I in fighting these forces. The prime minister said the fight against these forces is not the fight of the Congress-I alone, but it is the fight of the entire nation.

Mr Gandhi also accused the opposition of supporting power brokers and vested interests, thus taking away the rights of the people at the grass-roots level. The prime minister expressed the government's determination to devolve power on Panchayati Raj [village council administration] institutions, despite all opposition. He said this will strengthen democracy.

Referring to the jute industry, the mainstay of the area, the prime minister assured the people that the government will do everything to keep it alive. He also said that the government is contemplating long-term measures to tone up the industry.

Earlier, talking to newsmen in Purnea, the prime minister welcomed the initiative taken by the Soviet president, Mr Gorbachev, and the Chinese leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, to normalize their relations.

Answering a variety of questions, Mr Gandhi said that the Jharkhand movement [demanding a separate state for tribals] in Bihar will be handled effectively by the state government.

Expressing concern over infiltration from Bangladesh to India, he informed newsmen that he has directed the Tripura chief minister to take effective measures in this regard.

When a newsman drew his attention toward alleged smuggling of petroleum products to Nepal, Mr Gandhi said that concerned authorities have been asked to look into the matter.

Replying to another question, the prime minister said that he is very eager to solve the minorities problems, and he himself is monitoring the progress in this regard.

Gandhi: Dalai Lama 'Welcome' To Stay

BK1905083089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0632 GMT 19 May 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, May 19 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama, spiritual and temporal leader of all Tibetans, is free to stay in India as long as he pleases, newspapers Friday [19 May] quoted Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as saying.

There will be no change in India's Tibetan policy, the mass circulation TIMES OF INDIA quoted Mr. Gandhi as telling Tibetan refugees in the northeastern hill district of Darjeeling Thursday.

The Dalai Lama is most welcome to stay in India as long as he pleases, and the religious and cultural heritage of Tibetans staying in India would be protected, Mr. Gandhi said.

Earlier this year Mr. Gandhi came under fire from some 100,000 Tibetan refugees here who charged that in a fence mending visit to China in December he had ignored the Tibetan struggle for independence. [passage omitted]

8 Villagers, 6 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab

BK1905033889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] In Punjab, 8 persons were killed and 15 injured when terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on a group of people in Kedymandi village in Amritsar District last night. Our correspondent reports that senior police officials have rushed to the spot and a massive hunt for the culprits has started.

Meanwhile, six hard-core terrorists were killed and six arrested in separate encounters with security forces. According to an official spokesman, two of them each were killed in Nakodar area of Jullundur and in Amritsar District and one each in Jagram and Bagapurana areas of Ludhiana and Faridkot Districts last night.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1905130189 Tehran IRNA in English 1246 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today stressed that the executive branch be administered by one person under supervision of the people and the Majlis.

"Two managers at the helm will get nowhere... The president and prime minister are unable to handle the affairs even with identical views and reciprocal confidence," Khamene'i told Tehran's Friday prayer gathering. Khamene'i said the executive branch required centralization and that "people, unlike today, should know whom they should ask for their demands."

Control of the executive is currently one of the main topics in the meeting of the Constitutional Review Council whose proposals would be put to a national referendum. He said there were two prevalent views on how the executive branch should be administered: "One favors a powerful president who should be responsible before the Majlis and people, as a person elected by people, while the other wants the presidency to be a ceremonial position and calls for the branch to be run by the prime minister."

Khamene'i said the second view was common more in countries in which political parties were active and had power. He expressed hope members of the review council would carefully consider the issue.

Tehran's Friday prayer leader also said problems of the judicial branch would be solved to a great extent if the review council's proposals for greater individual responsibility at the head of the judiciary were approved. He said all agreed the judiciary's difficulties stemmed from the way the branch was run, which was by majority vote in a five member council. "A just and decisive jurisprudent had better run the branch," Khamene'i advised.

On the 28th of May, the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr, which has been declared a national holiday, the president, who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council, said this day must always be remembered with pride. "The day of liberation of Khorramshahr must be honored as a day to remember national and patriotic glories."

On his just-concluded tour of Beijing and Pyongyang, Khamene'i said that both the Chinese and North Korean peoples had experienced revolutions "which are useful to us." He said the main aim of his visits to the two countries was to lay the foundations for economic, technical, political and scientific cooperation.

USSR's Konarev Holds Talks With Majlis Speaker

LD1805191189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on the eve of his visit to Moscow, today received Soviet Railway Minister Konarev, the head of an economic delegation from that country. The meeting was attended by the finance and economy minister, ambassadors of the two countries, and a number of deputies. Agreements reached during the visit of the Soviet economic delegation to Iran were raised, and the expansion of comprehensive relations between the two neighboring countries was stressed.

Mr Konarev, the head of the commission for cooperation between the two countries, on the Soviet side, presented the best regards of Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, and Mr Ryzhkov, the Soviet premier. Referring to the agreements reached during the recent discussions between the two countries about the visit of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Moscow, Mr Konarev said: Regarding the upcoming visit by your highness to Moscow, and announcing our extreme delight at this, we have paid attention in our discussions to those issues that will be raised in your visit to the Soviet Union. The long-term plans and programs for cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union are among them. We intend to include in this agreement everything that is the intention of both sides.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed thanks for the efforts made by Mr Gorbachev on this issue. The head of the Majlis, speaking about internal developments in the Soviet Union, said: Mr Gorbachev and his colleagues have done a fine job in the Soviet Union. Looking from outside, we see that great development is created through him in the region, and throughout the world. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The conditions which are presently dominant in your country, and the current way of thinking, have prepared the ground for extensive cooperation between two neighbors.

The head of the Majlis, referring to the cooperation of the two countries in principal issues and in all areas, asked for his regards to be sent to Mr Gorbachev, the leader of the Soviet Union and other officials of that country.

Economic Talks Assessed

LD1805140389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The working ministerial meeting of the permanent commission of Iran-Soviet economic cooperation, meeting for a week in Tehran, today concluded its proceedings by signing a protocol on the bilateral talks. The protocol was signed by Mr Iravani, minister of economic affairs and finance of our country, and Mr Konarev, the Soviet minister of railways.

According to a Central News Unit report, issues related to the current economic cooperation between the two countries as well as preparation and drafting agreements on the export of Iranian natural gas to the USSR, cooperation in Caspian Sea fisheries, and exchanges of goods and cooperation in the field of railways were discussed and surveyed during the Soviet team in Tehran.

According to the report of the Central News Unit correspondent, the two sides confirmed the draft of the agreement on the long-term bilateral exchange of goods at the same session. The draft of the long-term economic, commercial, scientific, and technical cooperation between Iran and the USSR—supervising bilateral cooperation up to the year 2000—was exchanged between Iran and the USSR.

The stated program as well as the agreement on long-term exchange of goods between Iran and the Soviet Union are to be signed during the visit of Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Soviet Union.

According to the report, during Konarev's visit with Iranian authorities in Tehran, the two countries announced their approval of the purchase of three fishing trawlers from the Soviet Union, expansion of the Ramin Power Station in Ahvaz and Martyr Montazeri Power Station in Esfahan by 30 mw, installation of cast iron and machine tools in Iran, surveys on the feasibility of building three dams on the Karun River [in Khuzestan Province] and installation of canning plants for processing Kilika fish from the Caspian Sea.

The report lists the following bilateral agreements: Expanding the output of the Esfahan Steel Mill to 1.9 million tons by a specific date and subsequent expansion of its output to 4 million tons, utilizing Soviet satellites for discovering Iranian subterranean resources, and exporting Iranian gas to the Soviet Union the beginning from the year 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] as well as implementation of a number of industrial projects in Iran.

According to the report, the deputy minister of economic affairs and finance of Iran and the Soviet deputy minister of foreign economic relations are responsible to follow up and finalize the long-term program of the economic, commercial, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries until the year 2000.

Departs Tehran 18 May

LD1805163789 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—Soviet Railway Minister Nikolay Konarev and his entourage flew home Thursday, winding up a week-long visit and talks with Iranian officials.

Konarev's visit led to the signing of protocol which envisage Irano-Soviet economic, commercial, scientific and technical cooperation till the year 2000.

The protocol will be finalized during the coming visit to Moscow of Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the invitation of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

In an interview with reporters at the Mehrabad International Airport, Konarev termed his visit as "successful and a great progress in mutual ties."

The Soviet official said that his talks with Iranian officials concentrated on the text of the long-term cooperation pact between the two countries.

Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani, who saw off Konarev, described the Soviet official's visit as "fruitful."

He said that a provisional committee had been set up to follow up the long-term cooperation accord between the two countries. Earlier today, Konarev conferred with Hashemi-Rafsanjani on mutual ties and his coming visit to Moscow.

Tehran International on Clashes in Turkmen SSR

NC1805114089 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Fifty people have been arrested in the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] after a clash between the people and the police in Nebit-Dag, which is in the western part of that country. AFP has reported that two security officials were wounded during the clash, which took place last Tuesday. Both were hospitalized. Tradesmen in Nebit-Dag closed down their shops as a result of the disturbances.

According to the same report, about 100 youths were detained during a recent demonstration in Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmen SSR.

Indian Embassy Denies Military Aid for Kabul

LD1705191989 Tehran IRNA in English 1837 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—The Indian Embassy here today denied reports that New Delhi was contemplating military assistance to the tottering Marxist regime in Kabul.

Reacting to an AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY report from Islamabad last Monday as "baseless" the embassy issued a statement saying that "Indian assistance to Afghanistan does not include any military presence."

New Delhi, it said has "decided to give relief and rehabilitation assistance for Afghan refugees amounting to 100 million rupees (5.55 mn dlrs) [million dollars]" through what it termed "the United Nations system."

Traditionally India has had close ties with Kabul, and on May 15, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY [ANA] reported that Indian parachute and engineering units were on standby "to defend the rule of President Najibullah."

ANA had claimed, the 411th Indian Engineering Company which specializes in planting mines and making bridges was also to be sent to Afghanistan.

Mujahidin leaders who are struggling to establish an Islamic government in their Muslim homeland, had on several times reported the presence of Indian pilots and military advisers in Afghanistan to the press, ANA's despatch from Islamabad had said.

Khamene'i Issues Statement on DPRK, PRC Visits

LD1805090989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpts] President Khamene'i, who has been visiting the PRC and the DPRK at the head of a high ranking delegation, returned to Tehran Wednesday night and was welcomed officially by Prime Minister Musavi and a group of ministers, Majlis deputies, and armed and security officials. On arrival the president made a statement for our correspondent about the results of his visits:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In these visits we managed to make some good contacts with officials and the leaders of these countries and to have some useful discussions. Of course, delegations of experts in economy, technology and trade, trade relations, research and scientific development, which are important to us, and also political experts, had already met and had some good discussions. When we went, naturally the discussions were at a high level.

In China we met with Chinese leader Mr Deng Xiaoping and spoke about general issues. We had some very good discussions. We met with Mr Zhao Ziyang, the leader of the CPC, who manages the country. This meeting was useful and fruitful. We talked about long term cooperation between China and the Islamic Republic, and they welcomed this. We realized that they respect their relations with the Islamic Republic and consider them important.

In meeting the Chinese Prime Minister, the head of the Chinese Government, we had very good working discussions. We made some suggestions about technical, economic, and research cooperation and they welcomed almost all of them. Then we established four committees, which started work. While we were there we signed a memorandum of understanding, which was signed by

the foreign ministers, and in my presence and in that of the Chinese President. All of the technical, economic, political, and cultural issues were put into the memorandum of understanding. [passage omitted]

The visit to Korea was also very successful. We spoke with Korean leader Mr Kim Il-song, who is a very strong and wise manager. He has made his country very well, the reconstruction of the country is definitely his work. We had three official meetings with him and a few private meetings on various occasions. During the 3 days that we were in Korea we met more than 4, 5, or 6 times. [passage omitted]

Mr Kim Il-song had a very positive attitude toward the expansion and deepening of relations, and we had some very useful discussions. Five committees were set up in various areas and the long term cooperation between us and China [as heard] was secured. In Korea, in North Korea, they were secured. Some difficulties come about occasionaly and some work stops. It was obvious that we would order these problems to be rectified, the knots to be untied. Thank God, there we had four memoranda of understanding signed—two of them between the two foreign ministers, one between the heads of the joint commissions, on our side the construction jihad minister and on their side the economic minister. Two more memoranda of understanding were also signed, one or two more, were signed. [sentence as heard]

Also, we considered joint statement about political issues that reflect the joint antiarrogance positions of the two countries. This will be broadcast, and it should have been broadcast today in Tehran and in Pyongyang. [passage omitted]

My general evaluation of the visit is a positive one, certainly for the independent move by the Iranian nation and the technical and economic work that the government is doing and also its research and scientific work. This visit was a useful one and God willing we are hopeful for the outcome of this visit. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Paper Cites Khamene'i on Ties

LD1805205989 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—A Persian daily foresees "bright prospects" for Iran's relations with China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI commenting on President 'Ali Khamene'i's just concluded visit to Beijing and Pyongyang described the trip as "very effective" for the consolidation of friendly relations between the Islamic Republic and the two East Asian countries.

During the presidential visit, the paper said, it was made clear that Tehran's stands are, in many respects, similar to those of Beijing and Pyongyang, a fact which provides suitable grounds for the expansion and deepening of the existing relations.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran gives importance to its relations with China and North Korea," the paper quoted Khamene'i as saying during his talks with officials of the two friendly countries.

"Our ties may even be further consolidated and deepened," it further quoted Khamene'i.

"This viewpoint was also reciprocated by the Chinese and North Korean officials," the paper noted and termed the prospects of Iran's relations with the two countries as "very bright."

Lavasani, Mugabe Hold Talks in Harare

LD1805194289 Tehran IRNA in English 1903 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani discussed Iran-Iraq peace talks, and Iraqi violation of the cease-fire with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe in Harare today.

Mugabe who is the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) expressed support for the U.N. secretary general's peace plan and called for quick implementation of Resolution 598.

He also expressed hope that he would visit Iran this year.

Lavasani who is in Harare to take part in the NAM Coordinating Committee ministerial session, also held talks with foreign ministers of Algeria, Bangladesh, India and his counterpart from Malaysia.

Constitution Reappraisal Council Meets 19 May

NC1905070289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution [CRC] met yesterday afternoon. During this meeting, the council continued its studies of and then approved a report from the committee in charge of affairs concerning centralization in the judiciary branch.

The Central News Unit reports that during this session, Ayatollah Meshkini, head of the CRC, thanked the muslim people of our country for having sent their proposals and views to the council.

Supreme Judicial Council Creates General Courts

LD1805124889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpt] Following the submission of the report on the work by the judicial system over the past 2 months to expedite its investigations of prisoners and to put an end to the uncertainty regarding the prisoners who are detained pending investigation, his holiness the imam, in a letter addressed to Mr Moqtada'i, a member of the Supreme Judicial Council, he expressed his thanks and stressed the need for the exact implementation of Islamic laws in such a way that no one is treated unjustly.

This morning in an interview with reporters, Mr Moqtada'i emphasized the successful results of the separation of responsibilities in the judiciary and announced: The division of responsibilities among the members of the Supreme Judicial Council, which was carried out with the approval of his holiness the imam, has produced very good results in all fields including the acceleration of investigations, removing the uncertainty of prisoners under short-term detention, fighting against sources of corruption and deviated gangs [bandha-ye enherafi], and decisive fighting against narcotics smugglers. He expressed his hope that amending the Constitution and setting up central management at the head of the judicial system can lead to considerable progress in works and to speedy decisions, and can bring about a great transformation in the judicial system.

While thanking the officials and employees of the Armed Forces judicial organization who, after the separation of the responsibilities of the members of the Supreme Judicial System, in a period of 2 months, have implemented considerable activities, he described the approval of the bill on the formation of general courts [dadgahhaye 'am] in the recent session of the Supreme Judicial Council as a step toward putting an end to the slowness of investigations and removing various obstacles. He said: After the legal steps have been taken and this bill has been approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Guardians' Council, the necessary work of investigation and dealing with the cases will be carried out directly by the shari'ah judges of the courts. If a file does not require any further investigation, the judge can immediately issue the necessary verdict. [passage omitted]

Commentary Discusses Economic Planning

NC1805135089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 89

[Central News Unit research group commentary]

[Excerpts] The first program for the social, economic, and cultural expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran was presented at the beginning of this week for assessment by the various Majlis committees and subsequent ratification by the Majlis. [passage omitted]

Regarding economic growth and in order to increase per capita production, these being the quantitative goals of the first plan, it has been thought that the increase in the GNP in the 5-year plan period from 1989 to 1993 should be approximately 5.5 percent. This growth—in view of the average 3.2 percent population growth rate envisioned—will facilitate a 2.3 percent growth for the per capita GNP [bara-ye towlid-e nakhales-e dakheli ye saraneh ra moyasser misazad]. This goal will be realized through increased growth in the agriculture, industrial mining, and construction sectors; coordinated growth in the energy and tranport fields and in other economic sectors; and a concomitant reduction in the public services sector.

An increase in the production level because of new investments will naturally increase society's employment level. [passage omitted]

An important consideration for planning is that the plan should be formulated on the basis of realities and society's present capacity. In fact, the absence of realistic goals mars the very principle of planning. In the country's first 5-year plan, the country's oil income is anticipated to be $63 billion dollars. In this manner, the annual income from oil exports will thus be $12.6 billion. It appears that this plan's forecast for oil income seems to have been based on a realistic approach.

One of the reasons for the impracticability and ineffectiveness of the previous plans for economic expansion submitted to the Majlis in 1982 was because the anticipated oil income figure was too farfetched. The slump in oil prices in 1986 made the practical implementation of the plan utterly impossible. However, countries like ours, which depend on a single export for 90 percent of their foreign exchange, should be very cautious in forecasting income and basing our lists of expenditure on the minimum income.

Among the salient objectives to be noted in the first economic program is the control of inflation. This campaign can only be implemented by means of reducing liqudity, pruning the public service sector's share of GNP, increasing production, gradually diminishing the budget deficit, ameliorating the quota system for commodities, and subsidization. [passage omitted]

Another important point in the first program is that it forecast a drop in the government's current expenditures. In the past few years, because of an increase in its current expenditures, the government has been constantly forced to resort to credit from the country's banking system; this has had a negative effect on inflation. It is therefore decided that the ratio of governmental expenses for GNP would drop from 18.6 percent in 1989 to 13.2 percent in 1993. [passage omitted]

In general, the Islamic Republic of Iran's first program for social, economic, and cultural development has been formulated to span a period of 10 years [as heard]. Naturally the attainment of most of its general objectives should be sought in this interim perspective.

Drug Traffickers Arrested, Hung; Drugs Seized

Revolution Guards Seize Drugs

LD1705094589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Over the past few days, the Islamic Revolution Guards of Hamadan have discovered 4,200 grams of morphine and 2,055 grams of heroin in the possession of a merchant of death in that city. According to the Central News Unit, the person was arrested and the goods confiscated. He was handed over to the Islamic Revolution Court of Hamadan.

A drug smuggler has been charged with participating in the purchase and sale of 7 kilograms of heroin and has been arrested by the Islamic Revolution Committee of Hamadan.

13 Drug Smugglers Hanged 17 May

LD1705115389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] In accordance with the sentences passed by the Islamic Revolution Committees of Zahedan, Torbat-e Jam, Sari, and Sabzevar, 13 other merchants of death were today hanged. According to the Central News Unit, on the basis of communique No 19 of the headquarters for combatting narcotics, these persons, who were arrested on charges of buying, selling, and distributing at least 567 kgs of narcotics, were hanged publicly in the towns of Zahedan, (Paybaf), Sari, and Soltanabad, on Sabzevar.

Executions Total 476

LD1705191189 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan va Baluchestan Prov., May 17, IRNA—Seven drug traffickers were hanged here today, bringing to 476 the number of the "death merchants" executed since the new anti-drug law was enforced last January.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, the Islamic revolution's committeemen routed a big drug caravan comprising over 40 armed vehicles, after three days of clashes in this south-eastern border province, the political deputy to the governor general announced today.

'Abdol Mohammad Zahedi said more than 10 death merchants were killed and many others wounded in the clashes. The committeemen also seized several vehicles and a large amount of weapons and munitions, he said.

Drug Traffickers Arrested

LD1805133589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Thanks to relentless efforts by the Islamic Revolution Committee Guards in Khorasan Province, a gang involved in trafficking and peddling narcotics in Mashhad was smashed. According to a Central News Unit report, quoting the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Committee, more than 25 kg of opium and 4.14 kg of heroin were seized from this gang, and 21 merchants of death were arrested. The gang also left behind two [words indistinct] rifles, three motorcycles, and 930,000 rials.

On the basis of the same report, guards of the Islamic Revolution Committees of the Khorasan, Fars, Sistan va Baluchestan, and Hormozgan Provinces have succeeded in arresting 150 peddlers and narcotics addicts during the past 24 hours. The guards also seized 61.6 kg of various narcotics, three side arms, and 119 catridges from the arrested individuals.

Narcotics Band Routed

NC1905104289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] With the routing of one of the largest narcotics bands in Sistan va Baluchestan, (?20) members of the band were killed and 1 ton of opium juice and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were discovered and confiscated. This was stated by the deputy for information and operations of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Sistan va Baluchestan. He pointed out that this band was one of the largest and most dangerous drug smuggling groups in the country and that it martyred 54 guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee and Gendarmerie personnel during various clashes with law enforcement officials between the years 1365 and 1366 [1986 and 1987].

Nepal

Former Minister Arrested Over 'Seditious' Remarks

BK1905083589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Kathmandu, May 19 (AFP)—Former Nepalese Foreign Minister and human rights activist Rishi Kesh Shah was arrested at his residence here Friday.

The arrest of Mr. Shah, who served as foreign minister from 1961-62, is believed to have stemmed from an allegedly seditious remark he made during a recent visit to India.

The 66-year-old former diplomat allegedly pleaded for surrendering Nepal's defence affairs to India. He returned home Wednesday after a week-long visit to New Delhi.

Mr. Shah appeared before a court later Friday and was remanded in judicial custody pending further action, court sources said. He is expected to be tried under Nepal's Sedition Act.

Mr. Shah, author of several books including a "Modern History of Nepal," served as Nepal's permanent representative to the United Nations in the mid 1950's.

He headed the committee that investigated the death of U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold in an air crash in 1961.

Mr. Shah also served as chairman of the Nepal Human Rights Committee.

Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto Praises Role of Armed Forces

BK1805135589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said people respect the Armed Forces as they know they are responsible to safeguard borders, ideology, and the Constitution of the country. She was speaking at the installation ceremony of Major General, retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar as colonel commandant of the field regiment of artillery in Sialkot today. The prime minister said the people are ready to give any sacrifice for the country and meet requirements of its defense forces. The Armed Forces are also responsible for securing the rights of the people. Ms Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan is a country of the Muslims of the subcontinent, but it has to play an international role in the Islamic world. As compared to other countries, Pakistan is a newly born state established with a particular aim and to achieve some specific objectives.

Turkish Cypriot Leader Meets Ishaq Khan

BK1805113989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The leader of the Turksih Cypriot community, Mr Rauf Denktas, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. He briefed the president on the Cyprus issue. The president assured that Pakistan would continue to support the rights of Turkish Cypriot community.

The Italian ambassador, Mr (Adino Fernara), also had a meeting with the president. He delivered him a letter from the Italian president.

Envoy to UN Speaks on Kashmir Issue at Reception

BK1805083089 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Pakistani ambassador to the United Nations, Mr S. Shahnawaz, has said Jammu and Kashmir dispute [with India] should be settled through the process laid down by the Simla agreement and by the United Nations eventually. Responding to questions at a farewell reception hosted in his honor by the United Nations Correspondents Association, he said the issue should not lead to any kind of conflict.

Commentary Welcomes Result of Sino-Soviet Summit

BK1905095189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 May 89

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] The accord reached between China and the Soviet Union during the Soviet president's visit to China is, as described by Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, indeed a historic event. The summit-level meeting between the two giant nations has come up after a lapse of 30 years and has led to normalization of relations between estranged friends. Following the announcement by the two top leaders—Gorbachev and Deng Xiaoping—relating to the normalization of relations, the Soviet leader has also offered a pact with China on demilitarization of the two countries' joint borders and declared unilateral arms reduction in Moscow's Pacific fleet to mark detente between the two neighbors, one of them being a superpower and the other a major world power and the largest nation in the world in terms of population.

The positive outcome of the summit-level talks between Beijing and Moscow is indeed a tribute to the sagacity and pragmatism of both the leaders. Mr Gorbachev, ever since he has assumed the leadership of his country, has displayed considerable statesmanship and courage in taking a number of (?unwavering) decisions which, perhaps, were unthinkable ever since ascendency of Bolshevism in Russia.

The Chinese leadership stood firm in resisting the Soviet pressure and persistently demanded a revision of the Kremlin policies on certain international issues considered vital for world peace and regional harmony. While the Chinese leadership deserves to be congratulated for its steadfastness in abiding by principles and extending support to legitimate causes, Gorbachev deserves every praise for acknowledging great errors of his predecessors and taking remedial action.

China and the Soviet Union both are neighbors of Pakistan. For Pakistan, therefore, the accord has a special significance, particularly as Pakistan has, over the decades, enjoyed ideal friendly relations with China, and both countries have been engaged in mutually beneficial cooperation in every conceivable field, despite the fact that the two nations follow different ways of life for which they demonstrate genuine mutual respect.

With Moscow, however, unfortunately the relationship to Islamabad has not acquired sufficient warmth. The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979 had undoubtedly [words indistinct]. With the Kremlin's decision to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, the hope has been raised that it would be possible for the two neighbors to

get closer. The Soviet policy of providing sustenance to its tottering puppets at Kabul, perhaps because it does not wish to be seen as a power which would abandon its ally in its hour of crisis, has however stood in the way of the (?natural) process of the Soviets cultivating good-neighborly relations with Pakistan.

China had, it would be recalled, always listed the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan as one of the essential preconditions for opening negotiations for normalization of relations between the two states. Now that this has occurred, it must be viewed as a prelude to the Soviets taking the final courageous lead toward settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Pakistan should justifiably hope that China would continue to play its constructive role in this context.

Sri Lanka

Indian Embassy Objects to Communique on IPKF

BK1805035589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 May 89

[Excerpt] India has taken strong exception to the allegations made in Sri Lankan Government communiques on the role and function of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF]. In a press release issued in Colombo, the Indian High Commission noted with regret that the communiques on the current peace talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] conveyed the views of LTTE on the role and function of PKF. These, however, made no reference to the circumstances in which the PKF came to Sri Lanka and the enormous sacrifices it made in preserving the unity and integrity in the island nation.

Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi, an official spokesman also took objection to the reported remarks of the LTTE leader, Mr Balasingham, that the PKF is performing the role of an occupation army. [passage omitted]

More on India's Objection

BK1805113589 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The High Commission of India has noted with regret the Sri Lankan Government communiques conveying the view of one party to the talks over the role and functions of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in Sri Lanka and casting unwarranted aspersions on it. The high commission notes that these communiques make no reference to the circumstances in which the IPKF came to this country, the mandate that has been given to it jointly by the governments of India and Sri Lanka, the immense difficulties of its task, and the enormous sacrifices it has been making in an attempt to preserve the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. As a result, a misleading impression may be created in the minds of the people. It was their impression that the purpose of the current talks was not to provide a propaganda forum but to address themselves to the objective of bringing all concerned into the democratic process by giving up violence and accepting a commitment to the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. If unfounded charges are made, it can only be expected that there would be a response to set the records straight.

The high commission notes, however, that the purpose of the current talks as given in the latest communique is not to engage in charges and countercharges. It is, therefore, hoped that this spirit would be reflected duly in the talks as well as in the press release. As is well known, the Government of India has welcomed these talks and wishes them well.

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